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US rejects Israel's conditions for Wye

By HILLEL KUTTLER and LIAT COLLINS

WASHINGTON — The United States yesterday rejected the new conditions for the continuing implementation of the Wye Memorandum imposed by Israel. "We do not believe it is appropriate to add new conditions to the implementation of this agreement," State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had warned Wednesday night that Israel would not carry out the next stage of the redeployment unless the Palestinians stop incitement, accept that security prisoners with blood on their hands will not be released, and abandon their intention to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state.

The warning was issued by Netanyahu, in consultation with the security cabinet, following the mob attack near Ramallah on Sgt. Assaf Myara and Yehuda Oliva.

The next stage of the redeployment is due to take place later this month.

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky said last night that the visits of US negotiator Dennis Ross next week and President Bill Clinton the following week are expected to go ahead as planned.

The latest Israeli-Palestinian row will likely have no impact on Clinton's plans, a senior US official agreed.

But the official also said Israel had "miscalculated" the emotional appeal of the prisoner issue for Palestinians when it included mostly criminals rather than security prisoners in the release last month.

"I would hesitate to say this is going to affect the president's visit. Both sides want the president's visit to go well. A week from now, my guess is this will have been dealt with," he said.

The official said he expected that ultimately Netanyahu will back down and that the peace process will resume.

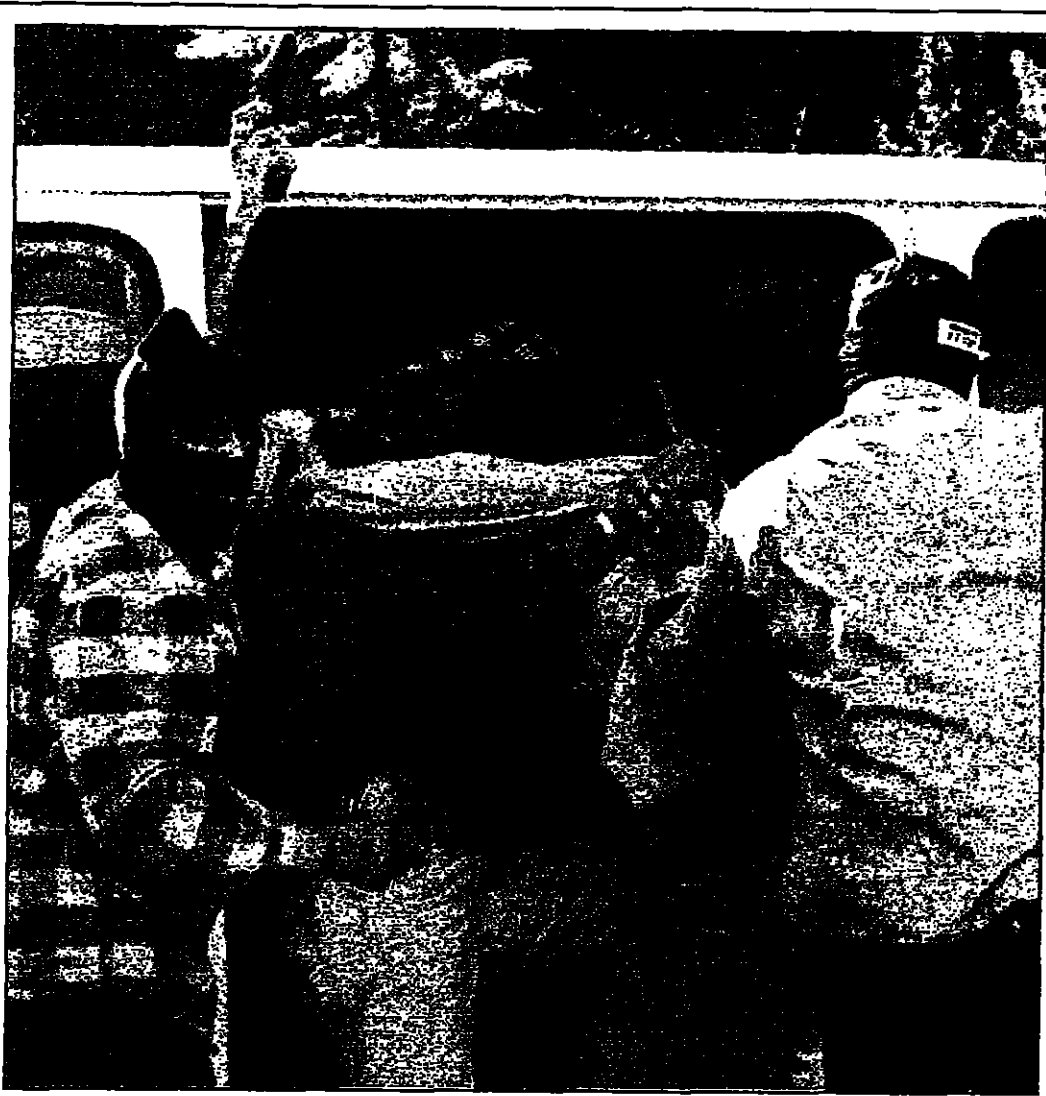
Netanyahu's repeating of demands he made last month for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to renounce plans to declare statehood next May will never achieve the desired effect, and Israel will end up backing down again, the official said.

"Obviously, when either side puts down public positions that raise the ante, I don't think that's a good way to operate... Before, a fairly stiff condition was laid down and it turned out to be not so stiff... He, and I'm sure the cabinet, know they won't get a commitment from Arafat. It's not an option and I think they know that. The Israeli side, I think, miscalculated about the emotional appeal of the prisoner issue on the Palestinian street."

"[The Israelis] think this was jimmied up by the Palestinian leadership to put pressure on the Israeli government. I can tell you: This is an emotional issue for the Palestinian people."

"The perception — whether it's correct or not — is that the Israeli government pulled a fast one, that they released only 60 political prisoners and the rest were car thieves."

See WYE, Page 2



Rioting continues

Masked Israeli undercover police arrest Palestinian stonethrowers during riots on Jerusalem's Salah a-Din Street yesterday. Sporadic riots continued for a second day following the fatal stabbing of a Palestinian worker in Jerusalem Wednesday. Story, Page 3. (AP)

Levy-Netanyahu talks break down

By SARAH HONIG

"I will not be entering the government in order to implement a policy I oppose," Geshar MK David Levy announced yesterday.

Levy's statement came after a fruitless two-hour meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv.

They failed to resolve their differences over Netanyahu's offer of the Finance portfolio to Levy, with each insisting on a set of conditions the other could not accept.

However, despite the apparent impasse, they plan to meet again and attempt to iron out their differences.

Levy, for the first time since beginning talks on rejoining the coalition, used angry, defiant tones last night.

In his statement after the unsuccessful meeting, he explained that "the budget proposal must be changed. A proper balance must be struck between economic and social factors. This necessitates overhauling the budget proposal and the economic arrangements bill."

These are conditions to which Netanyahu could not possibly agree. The very idea of starting the entire budget process from

scratch, with all the political fallout this would imply, is a near impossibility as far as he is concerned. Moreover, he must impose conditions of his own to calm his anxious coalition partners.

Yisrael Ba'aliya and Shas, a competitor of Geshar, fear Levy most. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman has been particularly sympathetic to Shas. Netanyahu had to demand that Levy not interfere with allocations allotted to those parties for causes they

No early elections vote Monday, Page 2

Levy will now have to consider Netanyahu's conditions. The next move in the talks will be his reply to them.

A source close to Netanyahu said last night that "the talks are

not hopelessly deadlocked, but the fact that no agreement could be reached in all this time indicates that we are entering a danger zone. The more things get bogged down, the more Levy might dig in his heels and make even minor points a matter of principle and personal honor."

Netanyahu, meanwhile, does not want to see Neeman leave his government. Nevertheless, all his attempts to convince Neeman to take another portfolio were of no avail.

Neeman is the one non-political minister in the cabinet and his presence there is completely dependent on Netanyahu. He told the prime minister as much yesterday when he said to him: "You appointed me; you will fire me."

Neeman could have taken umbrage by now and tendered his resignation, but he has not done so out of a sense of loyalty to Netanyahu. He is said to be wary of shaking up the coalition even further.

Privately he is said to have expressed doubt that Levy would ever be sworn in as finance minister.

He reckons Netanyahu's conditions, and others added by Shas leader Aryeh Deri, would make it very difficult for Levy to agree.

PM: 4% inflation unrealistic in '99

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

There is no way Israel will be able to reach the 1999 inflation target of 4 percent approved by the government on August 6 and reaffirmed on Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

"We must fix a realistic target," Netanyahu told a meeting of industrialists. "My estimate is that a 4% goal is not realistic. We're not in that area and we don't have to get there."

He made his comments only two days after the cabinet agreed not to

change the target, but to reassess it during the second half of January.

The goal was set during the summer after two weeks of secret meetings among Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel. "The target is 4%, make no mistake," Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb said when it was approved. "We don't want

inflation lower than this and certainly not higher."

However, since then, inflation has begun to climb again, following the recent sharp depreciation in the value of the shekel. Over the last three months, the shekel lost 15% against the dollar and other major currencies. This led to an ongoing series of price rises and the threat of spiraling inflation. While just a few months ago the consumer price index (CPI) looked likely to increase this year by only 4%-5%, the Central Bureau of Statistics now estimates it will end the year within the original 7%-10% margin set last year. The CPI increased by 3% in October.

These latest developments have led Netanyahu to adopt this more cautious approach toward the 1999 target.

His announcement came the day the International Monetary Fund published its interim report on the state of the Israeli economy, in which it recommended the target be left at 4% next year.

"The authorities should dispel doubts as to their intention to retain the 4% inflation target," warns the report. "A revision of the target would raise inflation expectations, potentially unsettle financial markets, and adversely affect the upcoming [public sector] wage negotiations."

Average wage now NIS 6,088, Page 5
Treasury, central bank crisis deepens, Page 10

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Students end strike

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

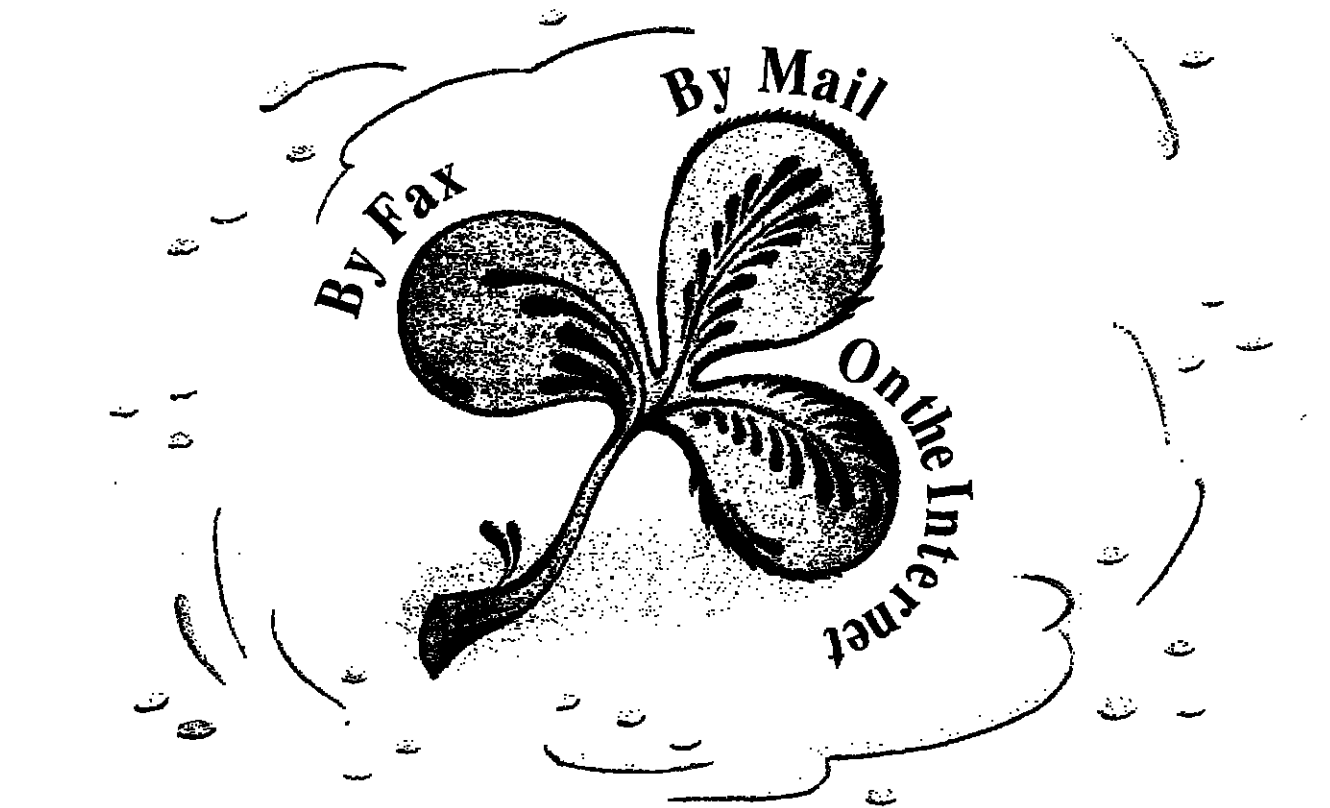
University students ended their strike yesterday, but accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman of deceiving them.

At a press conference announcing the end of the six-week strike, student leaders said they expect Netanyahu to announce by tomorrow night that he is increasing the scholarships for students who do community service.

Netanyahu welcomed the decision, "even though negotiators on behalf of the students did not succeed in keeping to the agreement reached with them." He said he would present that agreement to the cabinet on Sunday for approval.

Full report, Page 3

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Eilat	4:19 p.m.	5:19 p.m.



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NEWS

in brief

Bishara: Syria willing to resume talks

Hadash MK Azmi Bishara, who met Wednesday with Syrian President Hafez Assad, told Israeli reporters in phone interviews that Syria is willing to resume negotiations with Israel, but Damascus will not settle for anything less than a full return of the Golan Heights.

Bishara also met this week for three hours with Foreign Minister Farouk Shara. *Liat Collins*

High Court battle over Goldstein's tomb

The High Court of Justice yesterday instructed the state to reply to the parents of Baruch Goldstein - who are demanding ways be found to prevent damage to their son's grave - within 45 days. Yisrael Goldstein told reporters that destroying the grave would grieve the family and cause a shocking precedent.

When asked if his son had been a holy man, he replied, "His entire life was holy."

The state representative wants inscriptions on the grave, which clearly encourage acts of violence and so contravene the spirit of the law, to be removed. *Itm*

Man killed in road accident

Menashe Ben-Azaria, of Kiryat Haim, was killed yesterday morning when the car he was travelling in hit a truck on the Shfaram-Nazareth road. The driver of the car suffered light-to-moderate injuries.

There have been 50 fatal car accidents in Galilee this year, in which 58 people have been killed.

In a separate incident, Subhi Anis, 47, a tractor driver from the territories, was crushed to death in Haifa. *Itm*

Governor Bush: Israel has great investment potential

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Texas Gov. George W. Bush, just returned from a visit to Israel, said yesterday he has formed no position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that he has not decided yet whether to run for the presidency in 2000, saying that the time to lay out a foreign policy is if and when he decides to do so.

Bush said he was impressed with "how small" Israel is, a point about which "it was important for our Israeli hosts to remind our delegation." In a press conference in Austin, Bush said he took his first trip to Israel to familiarize himself with the issues and hear from a diverse group of Israeli politicians.

"I was there to listen and learn - and I learned," he said.

Bush said he sees a "great potential" for more Texas investment in Israel; it now totals \$600 million.

"I was able to learn a lot about the security needs of our strong friend and ally, Israel," said the son of the former president, whose delegation included three other Republican governors. He added that the only reason he did not meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was because Arafat was in the US during Bush's trip.

In response to a reporter's question, Bush tried to soften remarks he made several years ago that only those who had accepted Jesus Christ as their savior could go to heaven. The comment offended Jews.

"What I said is that my faith tells me that acceptance of Jesus Christ as my savior is my salvation and I believe I made it clear that it is not the governor's role to decide who goes to heaven," he said. "I believe God decides who goes to heaven, not George W. Bush."

Winning numbers

In yesterday's Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 385704 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 374800 won the car. Tickets: 348484, 157776, 062145, 816692, 881030, 754076, 300206 and 660400 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 07574, 52209, 76260, 73482, 75279, 18012, 15092, 18434, 76035, 28725, 02326, 48796, 09808, 04146, 90781, 25507, 01079, 05293 and 38498 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 014, 896, 715 and 396 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 01, 52, 30 and 68 won 30 NIS. Tickets ending in 52 and 21 won 20 NIS. Tickets ending in 4 and 6 won NIS 10.

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Because of Wye suspension

No early elections vote Monday

By SARAH HONIG

There will be no early elections vote in the Knesset on Monday since Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu appears to have shored up his coalition by suspending the Wye process.

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak declared in reaction yesterday that he was removing the safety net he says he spread out for Netanyahu after his return from Wye. The Likud countered by asserting that there never had been any safety net.

For as long as the Wye process remains on hold, Netanyahu's coalition is on far more solid ground than it has been thus far.

The payoff for Netanyahu was swift. He met with National Religious Party leader Education Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday morning and Levy informed Netanyahu that given the new circumstances, the NRP will not be supporting the early elections bill. This was even agreed to by the party's staunchest hawks - MKs Hanan Porat, Zvi

Hendel and Nissan Slomiansky.

A satisfied Netanyahu had a perk for Levy as well. He invited him to join the inner cabinet on defense and foreign affairs. Levy agreed on the spot. He will thus be joining Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, all of whom belong to the inner cabinet.

Levy also informed Netanyahu that the party had called off the session of the NRP central committee which was scheduled for Sunday to take up the issue of how to vote when the early elections bills come up before the Knesset the next day.

Netanyahu received similar news on Wednesday night from Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan, who declared that after the suspension of the Wye process his party had reversed its earlier position and would not now vote for the two pending early elections bills. These bills therefore cannot be passed, as they must be supported by a

minimum of 61 MKs.

But what was good news for Netanyahu was bad news for the Labor Party. Barak reacted to the news harshly and announced to the members of his party's political bureau in Tel Aviv last night that as long as the Wye process is halted there will be no safety net for the coalition.

"From the cabinet's decisions it appears that the government is retreating from the Wye agreement. Netanyahu's 'great' achievements have melted down in less than two weeks. If the government indeed behaves as it speaks, then there is no safety net," Barak stated.

"There is no automatic net. However, if the government gives in and returns to its previous course, then we will support every step taken in the direction of peace," he said.

Barak further added that "if no majority can be assured for the bill to dissolve the Knesset and opt for early elections, then Labor will move to postpone the vote to a

more opportune time." Should the bills be defeated in the plenum, they cannot be resubmitted for another six months, unless 61 MKs demand that it be voted upon earlier.

Despite the setback for the early elections bills, Barak continued to predict that elections will be held in May or June 1999.

The Likud issued an official statement mocking Barak's declaration that he is removing Netanyahu's safety net. "Who is Barak kidding?" the statement asked. "He knows and the public knows that while Barak spoke a lot about a safety net, there never was such a net - not even for a single day. The ongoing threats to advance the elections were a case in point. It was just another scheme to bring down the government and it doesn't matter by which method Labor intended to achieve its aim."

Despite the signing of the Wye Memorandum, "Labor was working energetically the entire time to end this government's term," the statement said.



Among friends

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu greets supporters during last night's Likud meeting at Metsudat Ze'ev. (Itan Oshendy/Israel Sun)

WYE

Continued from Page 1

A confident sounding Netanyahu vowed last night that "we will never release convicted terrorist murderers. This will just not be." He spoke to a Likud gathering to sum up the local elections.

Netanyahu said that "the demand that we release murderers is not a demand that we honor our Wye commitments, but it is a demand that we go directly against what the Wye agreement specifies."

The Palestinians, according to Netanyahu, "understood very clearly at Wye that murderers would remain in prison... They are

now demanding something which they very clearly know was never promised them. We never promised to free murderers, we could never have made such a promise and we never will make this promise. Every sense of human justice cries out against letting these heinous butchers go free."

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon is due to fly to Washington tomorrow night for an official visit. He is scheduled to meet with Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen, and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, among others.

"Israel will proceed with the process only when we are sure that the Palestinians go back to keep-

ing what they promised at Wye." Netanyahu told reporters before a meeting with US Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. "They must stop the fomenting of violence, the lynch mobs that we saw [Wednesday]. This incident that we saw was not a spontaneous incident. The CNN cameras that were there, I venture, were not there by accident. This was organized, orchestrated, planned in advance and fomented by the Palestinian Authority."

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday condemned the renewed Israeli demands, calling them, "a violation of the accord. It's violating completely Wye River."

Sarah Honig and Mohammed Najib contributed to this report

Britain's Fatchett postpones visit

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - A planned three-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian areas next week by British Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett was postponed yesterday, with British officials citing scheduling difficulties.

Another visit is now being planned for the first two months of next year. The announcement came following an interview with Fatchett published in *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday in which he did not rule out what would have been a controversial visit to al-Aksa mosque in Jerusalem.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said the decision had been made in consultation with Israeli authorities because "the dates were difficult for Israeli ministers, particularly the Israeli foreign

minister [Ariel Sharon] who would have been out of the country at the time."

The visit to the West Bank and Gaza Strip has also been postponed, he said, to ensure that Fatchett "can have timely discussions with both parties to the Israeli-Palestinian track in the peace process." Fatchett will go ahead with a one-day visit to Jordan on Monday.

The three-day visit was scheduled to start Tuesday. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon plans to be in the US and both Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had scheduling problems. Netanyahu met Fatchett a few days ago during his trip to London.

Liat Collins contributed to this report

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Flying partners
Greek Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Giagos Antonetis (left) steps into an Israeli F-15 yesterday for a flight with OC Air Force Maj. Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu.
(IDF Spokesman)

IAF strikes at Hizbullah targets

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at targets north of the security zone in the western sector of south Lebanon yesterday, following long-range mortar attacks on the IDF's Karkum outpost.

The IDF spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets and all the planes returned safely to their bases. There were no casualties in the mortar attack. There were also reports of long-range mortar attacks on a South Lebanese Army outpost in the north eastern sector of the zone yesterday. No casualties were caused.

Meanwhile, senior UN officers reported that according to their unofficial count, November was one of the hottest months in south Lebanon for many years.

According to their figures, there were a total of 170 incidents during the month - in which seven IDF soldiers were killed and nine others wounded. Three SLA soldiers also died in attacks.

During the same period, two gunmen from Hizbullah and one from the Syrian National Social Party (SNSP) in Lebanon were killed by the IDF.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for over 120 of the attacks, compared to 26 by Amal. The Lebanese Communist party and the SNSP also claimed responsibility for a small number of attacks, as well as the so-called Lebanese Squads, which is affiliated to and organized by Hizbullah.

UN officers noted the IDF's Soujoud outpost in the north eastern sector of the security zone came under fire, primarily from mortars, no less than 20 times last month; the Karkum position was targeted on 18 separate occasions.

Asked about the figures, UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said: "November was the most active month in terms of activities in south Lebanon that I can recall since 1985 (the year the expanded security zone was established)."

Palestinians clash with Jerusalem police

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Violent clashes continued yesterday as Palestinians threw rocks and empty bottles at Israeli security forces and passing Israeli vehicles in eastern Jerusalem and the surrounding environs. Six Border Police and policemen and three Israeli civilians were injured, and 19 Palestinians were arrested. One Palestinian was injured from a rubber bullet fired to disperse stone-throwers near the Mt. of Olives.

Yesterday morning stones were thrown at an Egged bus near Nablus Gate. The front window of the bus was smashed and the bus driver reportedly suffered light injuries. In a separate incident at the A-Ram junction, police dispersed Palestinian rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets after groups of Palestinians threw stones at passing Israeli vehicles. One Israeli citizen who was injured was transferred by Magen David Adom to Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem.

Fierce clashes also took place in Salah A-Din Street and Alotani Street in east Jerusalem, as Palestinians vented their anger at security forces and passing cars.

Two police sappers were lightly injured when rocks were thrown at their squad car patrolling in eastern Jerusalem. The two fired warning shots in the air to dis-

perse the rioters.

Later on in the afternoon, on the Mt. of Olives, masked Palestinians threw rocks and empty bottles at Israeli vehicles. One Israeli was injured, and an ambulance sent to the scene also came under a barrage of rocks.

Meanwhile, in response to Palestinian Police preventing Israeli trucks with building material from reaching Netzarim, settlers blocked the entrance and exit to the Karni crossing - declaring they would not allow Palestinian trucks to enter or leave Gaza until the Palestinian Police allowed the trucks into Netzarim. The IDF declared the area a closed military zone and the settlers dispersed.

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Students end strike

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

University students announced the end to their strike yesterday, but accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman of deceiving them.

At a press conference which caught the country by surprise, student leaders said they expect Netanyahu to declare by tomorrow night that he is "increasing the scholarships for students who do social service."

Admitting they failed in what they had set out to achieve, students said they felt cheated because Netanyahu and Neeman had led them astray.

"We feel deceived because the prime minister did not keep his promises to us. The Treasury proved stronger than him. We found ourselves

facing a government which refused all our demands. We feel bitter and let down," National Union of Israeli Students chairman Lior Rothbart said.

"We led a decent, moderate, fair fight for a just cause, but apparently we were led astray. It appears the prime minister and government only understand force. This is the way we will have to act as soon as we return to campus."

The prime minister told us several times he is all for a social revolution and changing the order of priorities, but in reality he provided a solution to only a handful of us," he said.

Rothbart said the strike was intended to improve the conditions of 175,000 students, but the government offered solutions for only 7,000-10,000.

The students had demanded a 50 percent cut in

tuition fees in return for social service.

"Netanyahu may have had good intentions. He moved toward us, but the finance minister wouldn't let him move," Lior Verona, a member of the students' negotiating team, said.

"This is an obtuse government devoid of values, a government which does not understand the deep social change required to mold a better society and state," Tel Aviv University student leader Erez Eshel said.

The student leaders also criticized the universities' faculty for "sitting on the fence" rather than supporting them.

Netanyahu welcomed the students' decision to end their strike, "even though negotiators on behalf of the students did not succeed in keeping to the agreement reached with them." He said he would present that deal to the cabinet on Sunday.

Numbers, naivete did in the glorious revolution

In the end, the students admitted, it was own naivete, the numbers game, and the ticking academic clock that led to the demise of their strike.

For as nice as the rhetoric of revolution sounded, in the end the failure to drum up enough support from the public, political figures, or among the students themselves and the threat of a cancelled semester forced student leaders back to campus, where they now vow to continue the fight.

Back in the heady opening days of the strike, the numbers were there. Thousands of students were involved in the effort across the country; the newspapers were plastered with pictures of them being dragged away by policemen. The

cries demanding a 50 percent cut in tuition spoke to every student, and in the warm fall sun, they flocked to the cause. MKs and mayors lined up to have their pictures taken with them, and even the Histadrut lent its support.

But as the Treasury continued to play hardball, insisting that agreeing to a reduction in tuition, whose level had been set by the students themselves in 1996, would leave the door open to other groups to make similar demands, the air started to leak from the students' balloon.

"People are starting to get fed up with you," President Ezer Weizman told them Sunday night.

ANALYSIS

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

By pushing their "social revolution" idea to the fore, even ahead of their tuition demands, they confused the public and even students about what they really wanted. Student leaders may have naively believed the public would rally to such an idea, but the ongoing tension in Lebanon and other developments did little to reduce the national level of cynicism.

When Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to come to their aid, the students thought they had won, but in the end, even Netanyahu

stopped short of the "social revolution" when the Treasury showed him the bill. Offered an agreement they believed failed to provide lower tuition for all of their constituents and fell far short of the lofty ideals they preached, the students took a different path.

If David Levy takes over as finance minister, the students should find an attentive ear to at least some of their demands. As the students go back to school Sunday, the public might well give some thought to some of the "revolutionary" ideas it produced: finding time to help others in hospitals, caravan sites, and other places where there are individuals in need is a noble lesson the naive students can teach us all.

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Senior IDF commanders:

Myara should have opened fire

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
and LIAT COLLINS

As the IDF continued to investigate the behavior of Sgt. Assaf Myara, who failed to use his weapon when attacked by a mob near Ramallah on Wednesday, senior military commanders said they do not believe the incident would have any detrimental effect on the image of the IDF.

They said that an initial investigation revealed that Myara had not even loaded his weapon while traveling in a known danger zone, as army regulations specify. They also added that open-fire regulations do not need to be changed, but that regulations on travel may be altered.

Still, top IDF commanders said Myara should have opened fire. "According to how we see it, at least from the photos, this was not the behavior expected of a soldier. The soldier was in a life-threatening situation and so was allowed to open fire," said OC Judea and Samaria Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan.

Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Zigdon, chief of staff of the Central Command, said that Myara should have opened fire, even to kill, in this situation.

Israel Radio, quoting military sources, said that Myara has been a problematic soldier and has twice been tried for disciplinary infractions. He was confined to base, but apparently left without permission and was hitchhiking when he fell prey to the stone-throwing Palestinians.

OC Binyamin Brigade Col. Yossi Heinman said the soldiers in an IDF jeep which had been stoned by the same mob only moments before the attack on Myara and Yehuda Oliva could have prevented further escalation of events, but sped off instead.

"There were armed officers in the jeep, and had they gotten out we wouldn't have come to a situation where a civilian car hit a dead end. But they thought that their mission was to flee as quickly as possible," he said.

IDF commanders also told MKs Yossi Katz (Labor) and Nissan Slomiansky (National Religious Party), who yesterday toured Judea and Samaria representing the State Control Committee, which Katz chairs, that the officers had seen cameramen and photographers running toward the area and then a rock was thrown at the car from behind. They reported the incident, but did not fire in the air to disperse the mob.

Knesset Law Committee chairman Hanan Porat (NRP) has sent a letter to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz asking him to ensure a permanent IDF presence at the junction where Wednesday's near-lynching took place.

Settlement leaders called on the army to impose a closure on Ramallah and catch the perpetrators of Wednesday's attack as they attempt to leave the town. If the army refrains from doing so, they warned they would take action.

Margot Dudkevitch contributed to this report.



A recovering Sgt. Assaf Myara stands with his mother Lisa outside their Jerusalem home yesterday. His father is in the background. (Flash 90)

Drunken soldiers held after joyride

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Military policemen arrested five off-duty Givati Brigade soldiers yesterday, after they took pot shots in the air during a drunken joy ride stretching from the Hebron Hills to

the outskirts of Jerusalem. Border policemen, who feared they were being shot at, opened fire at the van the soldiers were driving in, but missed, the army said.

Reports of the 3 a.m. shooting and fleeing van alerted the whole

region. With border policemen in pursuit, the van was eventually stopped at the IDF roadblock south of the entrance to the Bethlehem area tunnels. The soldiers were surprised to find seven drunken people inside, five of whom turned out to be off-duty soldiers. They were not in uniform, the army said.

The army said that the soldiers confessed to the shooting and they were detained by the Military Police. The two civilians were taken in by police for questioning.

Opher Sivan, spokesman for police in Judea and Samaria, said that the two civilians, both in their mid-20s, had been sitting in the back and were not involved.

According to an initial investigation, the drunken soldiers had been at a party in Kiryat Arba.

Attacked soldier's mother: My son acted correctly

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

"I am proud of my son. I think he acted correctly. He saved his life and that is the most important thing," said Lisa Weinmann-Myara, the mother of the British-born soldier who has been criticized for not shooting his way out of an angry Palestinian mob near Ramallah on Wednesday.

Weinmann-Myara said that the footage of her passive son Assaf being beaten by Palestinians shown around the world with descriptions of "disgrace" and "embarrassment" did not bother her.

"I've seen the full footage of the incident. I am totally convinced that everything Assaf did was completely kosher," she said in a telephone interview from her Jerusalem apartment. "I don't think that anyone can stand in his

shoes, no officer, no general, no one."

Weinmann-Myara, 41, was born and raised in Ascot, Berkshire, England and first came to university here in 1976, where she met her husband, Assaf. They lived in England, where Assaf was born, but returned here in 1982, knowing he would one day be in the army.

"I came from a very Zionist background. It was always obvious that I would live here and raise a family here. In the past year I have become very disillusioned with the political path the country has taken and I wanted to go back to England," she said.

"But I know that I cannot walk out just because I am fed up with the policies of this government and leave a child in the army and another who is joining next year. Neither can I snatch them from

the army and keep them from their homeland."

She called the intense media coverage of whether her son should have opened fire "non-sense." She said that he acted according to his instinct. She said Assaf, 19, had been in the army for about a year, but had served for only three weeks as an operations sergeant in the battalion at Beit El. She said he had never been fully briefed on the use of his weapon.

"He had no experience. He was alone and he acted as every officer, every general, and I believe even the chief of general staff would have behaved to save his life," she said.

"When all this happened my feelings exploded inside me. I have to separate between my heart and my mind. In my heart, if Assaf has to go on trial and is

found guilty and severely punished, then I'll use all the power I have to get him out of the army."

Weinmann-Myara said she has received backing from at least two MKs and one major-general, whom she declined to name. She said that a number of attorneys have also offered to defend Assaf "from the big machinery called the army" if he is court-martialed.

"There is no way he'll go back to Beit El. I have always given my two sons the kind of upbringing I received in Carmel College and that is to do a job to the best of your ability. Today, I would rather have him do a nine-to-five job in an army canteen. I am not looking for heroes."

She said her second son, a 17-year-old, wanted to serve in an elite combat unit, but that he had changed his views after the incident with Assaf.

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

The Jewish-Arab Center

Bertha Von Suttner Research Program

conference:

The Palestine Mandate, Fifty Years After:

Arab, Jewish and British Perspectives

Monday - Tuesday, December 7-8, Observation Gallery, 30th Floor, Eshkol Tower

Monday, December 7, 1998

9:15 - 9:45 Opening and Greetings

Chairperson: Prof. Joseph Nevo, Jewish-Arab Center
Dr. Karlheinz Koppe, Bertha Von Suttner Foundation
Prof. Gad Gilbar, Rector of the University of Haifa
Dr. Ibrahim Geris, Head of the Jewish-Arab Center
Mr. Andrew Ayre, Third Secretary, British Embassy

9:45 - 13:00 First Session: British Perspective

Chairperson: Prof. Gabriel Warburg, University of Haifa
Dr. A. Joshua Sherman, Middlebury College, Vermont, U.S.
British Lives in Mandate Palestine
Dr. Uri Kupferschmidt, University of Haifa
A Comparative View of Islamic Infrastructures under the Mandate
Dr. Yaakov Markovitzki, University of Haifa
Cordon and Search: The Airborne Division's Struggle against Terrorism in Palestine
Prof. Bernard Wasserstein, Oxford University, U.K.
Commentator
Discussion

15:00 - 18:00 Second Session: Arab Perspectives

Chairperson: Dr. Butrus Abu-Maneh, University of Haifa
Prof. Mohanna Haddad, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan
The British Mandate Between the Traditional and the Resurrecting Regenerative: The Palestine and the Zionist Cultures
Dr. Ilan Pappé, University of Haifa
The Palestinian Historical Portrayal of the British Mandate: Continuity in Change
Dr. Mahmud Yazbak, University of Haifa
From Poverty to Revolt: The 1936 Arab Rebellion
Prof. Nu'man Jubran, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan
The Economic Effects of the Mandate on the Palestinian Arab Peasants
Dr. Nur Masalha, Richmond College, American International University, London
Commentator
Discussion

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

9:15 - 12:30 First Session: Jewish Perspectives

Chairperson: Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi, University of Haifa
Prof. Yoav Gelber, University of Haifa
Changes in the Attitude of the Jewish Population towards the British during the Mandate
Prof. Yacov Goldstein, University of Haifa
The Attitude of Social Zionism Towards the British Mandate
Dr. Motti Golani, University of Haifa
The Historiography and the Role of the British in the First Part of the 1948 War
Discussion

14:30 - 18:00 Round Table:

The Legacy of the Mandate and its Impact on the Jewish and Arab Societies

Chairperson: Prof. Moshe Lisak, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Prof. Muhammad Muslih, Long Island University, U.S.A.
Prof. Joseph Gorni, Tel-Aviv University
Dr. Nur Masalha, Richmond College, American International University, London
Prof. Yoav Gelber, University of Haifa
Ms. Hadara Lazar, Writer, Israel
Dr. Alexander (Sandy) Kedar, University of Haifa
Prof. Sammy Smooha, University of Haifa
Prof. Fayz Zurikat, Mota University, Jordan
Dr. Raslan Bani Yasin, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan
Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor, University of Haifa
Discussion Group (for all panels)

Dr. Butrus Abu-Maneh, University of Haifa
Mr. Mustafa Abassi, University of Haifa
Mr. Mustafa Badran, University of Haifa
Dr. Michel Eppel, University of Haifa
Prof. Kais Firo, University of Haifa
Mr. Tamir Goren, University of Haifa
Mr. Majid Hatamla, Educator, Jordan
Prof. David Kushner, University of Haifa
Prof. Ghalib Khalidi, Mota University, Jordan
Mr. Baker Khazaz El-Majli, Journalist, Jordan
Prof. Sasson Sofer, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Dr. Moshe Shemesh, Ben-Gurion University
Dr. Yechiam Weitz, University of Haifa
Prof. Nathan Yanai, University of Haifa
Dr. Abed El-Hamid El-Kasam, Mota University, Jordan

- The Public Is Invited -

Journalists differ over cameramen's role

By HERB KEMON

Among the many questions posed by the images of a Palestinian mob attacking Jerusalem resident Yehuda Oliva and IDF soldier Assaf Myara on Wednesday, not a few have to do with the behavior of cameramen who filmed the harrowing incident, but apparently did not try to intervene.

Where does journalistic duty end, and civic responsibility begin? More bluntly, when does a journalist stop acting like a journalist, and begin behaving like a human being?

"If the photographer was invited beforehand to a lynching," asked Assaf's mother Lisa, in an interview on Israel Radio, "why did he not inform someone beforehand? It shows that in their eyes a scoop is more important than human life." She was commenting on reports that the cameramen on hand were informed by Palestinians in advance that there would be a confrontation with the IDF.

Aryeh Avneri, an investigative reporter for Yediot Ahranot and chairman of the National Federation of Journalists, said that in his eyes, "if you are in the street, and see someone in distress, you have a duty to help him."

Avneri said that the Israeli Press Council held an informal discussion on the matter during the height of the intifada, when a similar incident took place, and the "general feeling" was that a journalist's human obligation to another human being must take precedence over a professional

obligation to document a particular incident or event.

Haim Zadok, a former Justice Minister and currently head of the Israeli Press Council, said that not only does one have a civic obligation to help a fellow in distress, but it is now also one's duty under a recent Knesset law. "This is a law applicable to everyone - cameraman or onlooker," Zadok said.

The problem, however, is that reality does not always fall into neat paradigms. "It is often a question of circumstances," Zadok said. "One could argue that if the photographer tried to intervene, he could have endangered himself. Everything is dependent on the circumstances. You can't ask a photographer to be a hero and endanger himself. From what we saw on television, it did not look easy for someone from the side to intervene there." Veteran Israel Television cameraman Moshe Friedman said on Israel Radio that the job of the cameraman is to document what happens in the field.

"I am not a soldier, or policeman, and have no position except as a cameraman whose job is to bring back the pictures," Friedman said.

"My ability to intervene is impossible," he said, "because I am alone there." Friedman said that similar cases in the past took place while "I was standing against hundreds on one side, and dozens on the other, and my intervention would not have helped. I am alone, and I'm not going to organize a unit to go conquer the hill."

Decision on Pollard expected in January

WASHINGTON - The White House has asked senior administration officials to recommend by January 11 whether convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard should be granted clemency and to supply any information that might have a bearing on the case, spokesman David Leavy said yesterday.


In a November 16 letter, White House Counsel Charles Ruff set the January date to enable President Clinton to conduct a review of the Pollard case "in a timely manner," Leavy said. Copies of the letter were sent to Attorney General Janet Reno,

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Central Intelligence Agency director George Tenet.

US intelligence agencies and the Pentagon have strongly opposed longstanding requests from Israel for Pollard's release.

Pollard, a former US Navy intelligence analyst, was arrested in 1985 and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1987.

Clinton promised to review Pollard's sentence after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu raised the issue at the Wye River talks. The Washington Post



The Israel Airports Authority

SUPPLY OF GRANITE FLOORING REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) is currently in the process of constructing a new terminal complex at Ben Gurion International Airport and is contemplating purchasing approximately 65,000m² of granite from the Madurai region of Southern India, for laying by others in the Landside and Airside Terminal Buildings of the Ben Gurion 2000 Project.

The majority of the granite to be (select) purchased will be Rare Ivory, Ivory Madurai with grey and beige background while the balance will be small quantities of various types of Raw Silk in light pink tones and Kashmir White, to be defined later.

The granite will be supplied, cut and finished to comply with the IAA's rigorous technical specification and will be delivered to the Ben Gurion 2000 Project Site under the sole responsibility of the Supplier. All required shop drawings and quality control ticketing will be a part of the Suppliers Scope of Work. It is anticipated that the materials will be delivered to the Project over an eighteen (18) month period commencing from August 1999. The Scope of Work will obligate the Supplier to provide partial shipments to meet interim milestones; schedules that support the construction activities of the Installation Contractors.

The IAA is seeking to pre-qualify interested parties with the required ability and knowledge to import stone from India and who are able to meet the following criteria:

1. The party must have experience in buying/selling natural stone in the international market place, in quantities of at least 25,000m², in each of the last 5 years.
2. The Party must have financial capacity to demonstrate a turnover (from natural stone materials alone), of US \$2,000,000 per year, during each of the last three years.
3. The Party must be able to provide a Bank Guarantee, in an amount to be determined by the IAA, through an Israeli Bank (or back to back with an Israeli Bank) from the time of the acceptance of the Suppliers Financial Proposal by the IAA until all materials have been delivered to the site and accepted by the IAA.

The IAA will select a shortlist of suitable parties based on the above criteria, or additional criteria as deemed appropriate, at the IAA's sole discretion.


If your organization considers itself suitable then it should prepare a submittal confirming that you are able to meet all of the above mentioned criteria. Your submittal should be attested to by an independent attorney/advocate to your organization. In addition, you may wish to include any other relevant information that you consider appropriate (e.g. examples of similar completed transactions).

Your submittal should be addressed to the undersigned and delivered to reach the following address by no later than 12 noon, Sunday, 6 December 1998:

Attn: Mr. Richard Tattersall, Contracts Manager
Lehrer McGovern Bovis International Ltd
Ben Gurion 2000 Project
Ben Gurion International Airport
P.O. Box 104, 70150
Israel

This advertisement shall not be deemed a commitment by the IAA for any future engagement or notification in any form or manner.

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All essays are to be written in Hebrew.

Application forms and guidelines are available from Beit Morasha of Jerusalem, 44 King George St., Jerusalem (Please note: Requests for applications must include a self addressed stamped envelope.)

For further information, please contact:
The Division of External Studies, Tel. 02-624-5648 (ext. 3)



Arafat seeks US backing
Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat clasps the hand of US Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala yesterday after they met in Gaza City. Arafat slammed the new conditions placed by Israel on implementing further withdrawals in the West Bank. (Reuters)

MKs' flight to Gaza never gets off the ground

By LIAT COLLINS

The peace talks might not be completely grounded but the first official flight carrying MKs from Ben-Gurion Airport to the new Gaza International Airport literally failed to take off yesterday.

The flight, organized by the International Center for Peace, was refused permission to fly to Gaza after Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai discovered it would be carrying nearly 100 Israelis and not just the 20 opposition and coalition MKs he knew of.

The incident quickly earned the nickname "The flight to nowhere," a phrase coined by David Levy when he left the government last year.

Apart from 17 MKs, some 30 journalists turned up for the flight

along with some 50 peace center members, relatives, friends and neighbors. Mordechai told the MKs who called him constantly on their mobile phones that he could not accept responsibility for the safety of that many civilians entering Gaza. He gave permission for the MKs to continue along with 10 journalists but the band of travelers at this point decided it was everyone or no one.

The group was scheduled to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and other senior PA officials at the airport before a tour of the city.

The decision to abandon the flight was spearheaded by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor). It was followed by an argument which temporarily turned Terminal 2 into a copy of the Knesset. "Somebody grounded this

peace flight and it's going nowhere," said Yehzekel, who described the affair as "embarrassing." He said the Israelis should apologize to the Palestinians and reschedule the trip.

Yehzekel was backed by party activists and members of the peace center as well as many of the opposition MKs. Surprisingly, it was the two coalition MKs who had turned up - Yisrael Ba'aliya whip Roman Bronfman and Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman (Third Way) - who were most openly in favor of continuing.

"This wasn't meant to be a pleasure excursion but a serious political visit by MKs of different parties," said Zissman. "Today more than ever we need to talk." Bronfman also said the decision to abandon the flight was "hastily

taken" by Yehzekel in a move of "cheap populism" which did not take into account the political significance of the visit and was influenced by the presence of the media at the site.

Anis Al-Qaq, Palestinian Authority Deputy Minister for International Cooperation, who was to have accompanied the flight, described its cancellation as a "disappointment."

He said the visit could have had importance even in a time of crisis. "How is it that Spanish planes can come and the Egyptians can come but not the Israelis who are our neighbors?" he said.

The group will try to reschedule the visit, in a more organized fashion, next week. Until then, as Yehzekel quipped: "The duty free at Dahaniya has been saved."

Conference calls for womens' health center

By JUDY SIEGEL

The establishment of a Health Ministry center for women's health, which would promote research, public education and improved treatment in the field was recommended to Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday by participants in the Israeli-US bina-

tional conference on "Promoting Women's Health Across Generations."

The two-day conference, sponsored by the Health Ministry and the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), ended yesterday at the King David Hotel after its working group sessions on young girls' health, working

women's health and health of the elderly were held in the Jerusalem Hilton.

More than 80 American delegates and attendees - including US Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala - came here for the event in which they held discussions with a few hundred Israeli experts on all aspects of women's health.

Dr. Rachel Adatto-Levy, Matza's adviser on women's health and a gynecologist at Shaare Zedek Hospital, said last night that a 30-member steering committee of Israeli doctors and

other professionals and representatives of women's organizations and health funds will meet monthly to consider how to implement the recommendations of the conference. "Minister Matza has decided that he will give priority to the issue of women's health," said Adatto-Levy.

The participants agreed that American and Israeli women have many health problems in common. The meetings were not an exercise in one side teaching and the other learning, but mutual study of issues from different vantage points.

Average wage NIS 6,088

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

The average monthly wage for employees reached NIS 6,088 gross during the third quarter of the year, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The average wage is now 2.4 percent higher than it was at the end of the third quarter last year. This figure includes salaries of licensed foreign workers.

When employees from the territories and southern Lebanon are taken into account the average wage was NIS 6,050.

The number of employees

reached 2.2 million, of whom some 30,000 came from the territories and southern Lebanon.

Economists yesterday explained that as the average salary increases, so too does the minimum wage, which in turn means employers have to pay higher wages and as a result have no choice but to lay off staff they cannot afford to pay. This in turn means fewer workers are earning the minimum wage. As a result, the average wage increases and thus the economy is caught in a vicious cycle.

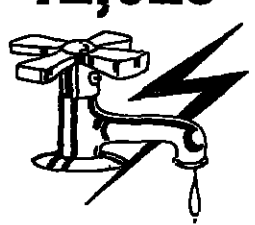

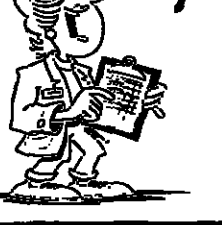

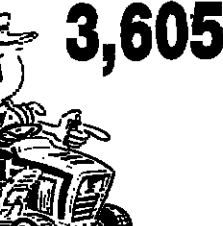

This year's budgetary arrange-

ments bill, which is still awaiting its first reading, includes a proposal to prevent a real increase in the minimum wage for the next two years.

The Treasury said unless this legislation is accepted, the minimum wage will increase by 3% above the expected inflation rate in 1999.

Wages remain the highest in the electricity and water industries, averaging NIS 12,625, while people working in the food and accommodation industries are the poorest paid, earning some NIS 3,117.

Average Monthly Salary

12,625  Electricity & Water	9,631  Banking, Finance & Insurance	5,647  Health & Welfare
5,036  Education	3,605  Agriculture	3,117  Food & Accommodation

Chairman of Democratic National C'tee resigns

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - After two years as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, former American-Israel Public Affairs Committee president Steve Grossman has decided to resign to devote more time to his company and family.

Grossman decided to leave the post after his 9-year-old son Josh said he had decided not to play organized baseball this season because his father was constantly traveling on party business.

"You can afford to have a political tin ear, but you can't afford to have a tin ear when it comes to the most important people in your life," Grossman said in an interview yesterday.

Grossman will return to his full-time job running the Massachusetts Envelope Company in suburban Boston. The firm was established by his grandfather, a Romanian immigrant, in 1910.

Grossman served in the post two years in a dual arrangement with Colorado Governor Roy Romer. Grossman's father, Edgar, has been

waging a 15-year bout with Parkinson's disease that "is not getting any better," and that was also a factor in his decision, Grossman said.

Grossman intends to remain involved in party politics and "will certainly want to devote part of my life to pro-Israel activism" as well as to "the marketplace of ideas in Jewish life."

He intends to seek reinstatement on AIPAC's board, a position given to the organization's former presidents and which he surrendered upon accepting the DNC job.

Volkswagen Humanitarian Fund For Granting Aid To Former Forced Laborers

Volkswagen AG has established a Humanitarian Fund for granting aid to persons who were forced to work for Volkswagenwerk during World War II. The fund is under the supervision of a Curatorium. KPMG AG (Germany) has been retained to act as administrators for the Humanitarian Fund.

To expedite the disbursement of financial aid, we are requesting former forced laborers who worked at Volkswagenwerk between 1940 - 1945 to contact us at either of the following addresses:

1. KPMG Deutsche Treuhand-Gesellschaft AG
Postfach 55 03 50
60402 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Fax No: +49 (69) 95 87 33 33
2. KPMG Somekh Chaikin
P.O. Box 609
Tel Aviv 61006
Israel
Fax No: 03-5174440

Once contact has been established, applicants will be sent a brief questionnaire.

KPMG has been requested by Volkswagen AG and the Curatorium to disburse the financial aid upon examination and review of the documents, in an unbureaucratic, expeditious and swift manner.

Frankfurt am Main, December 1 1998

INVITATION
You are cordially invited to the last lecture - evening in a series of "Evening Forums" on

"Dialogue in Jerusalem Towards the Millennium - Jews, Christians and Muslims"

A Dialogue with Guest Speakers:

Yeheskel Landau, Tantor Ecumenical Institute
Harry Hagopian, Director Jerusalem Liaison of the Middle East Council of Churches
Muhammed Hourari, Shalom Hartman Institute

Moderator: **Dr. Ron Kronish**, Director ICCI
on Wednesday, December 9th., 1998 at 17.00h
in the Notre Dame Cultural Center (opposite the New Gate)

Light refreshments will be offered

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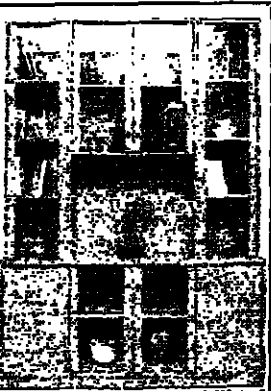
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Quebec says maybe

"He seems to have an image so inflated by helium for such a weak substratum of ideas, that it is tempting to deflate the windbag as quickly as possible. We can do that when he puts his ideas (if he has any) up against ours, which we certainly have."

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

A week is a long time in politics, as the late Harold Wilson said. About 30 weeks ago, a certain Jean Charest was in Canadian news headlines for his decision to become leader of the Liberal Party of Quebec. His accession was greeted with glee by Canada's English speakers because they hoped he would at last end Quebec's 30-year-old threat to go its own way as an independent state.

Charest was the "helium inflated windbag" attacked in the above quote by Quebec's deputy premier Bernard Landry of the ruling Parti Quebecois. While many would say windbagging is the oxygen of all politicians, there is no doubt that it was the Parti Quebecois that had the wind taken out of its separatist sails in this week's provincial election.

Victory in defeat

Yes, Premier Lucien Bouchard's party won another term, but no, he did not win his much-touted "winning conditions" — a big enough majority to hold yet another referendum on independence for Quebec. (Separatists lost two previous referendums, one in 1980 and one in 1995.) On Monday, the tide of separatism was again turned back by "the windbag" Charest and his Liberals.

What Bouchard got from the voters was a bitter victory, what Charest got was a victorious defeat.

On paper, Bouchard's win looks convincing since his party took 75 of the 125 seats in the legislature. That would be fine, if all the Parti Quebecois wanted was to govern Quebec. What they wanted was at least 46 percent of the vote, which Bouchard sees as the threshold from which to step to statehood.

The Liberals won only 48 seats, but won 44% of the popular vote — Parti Quebecois won 43% and Mario Dumont's Democratic Action got 12%.

Social union

The voters seemed to be in ambivalent mood, giving Bouchard's French-speaking patriots a new term, but giving Charest enough to block secession. (Strictly speaking, it was the third party candidate Mario Dumont, not Charest, who stole votes from the Parti Quebecois.)

But Bouchard got the voters' message: "My first conclusion is that Quebecers want us as a government. They like what we are doing as a government. They want us to finish the job. But they are not prepared to give us the current conditions for a referendum right now."

The voters were ambivalent perhaps, but not uninterested — more than 80 percent of registered voters cast their ballots, an astonishing figure by North American standards. Quebec has seven-and-a-half million people, 83 percent of them French-speaking.

Monday's election has pushed a possible secession referendum back another two years, and there are federal developments that may undermine separatism further.

Bouchard now will be joining other provincial premiers to negotiate a proposed "social union" with Ottawa. The social union was conceived by the nine premiers outside of Quebec at their annual meeting in Saskatoon last August. The proposal is that provinces should be able to opt out of federally initiated social programs. Instead they would get federal cash to start their own schemes tailored to their regional needs. Provinces have been angry with high-handed federal cutbacks to social programs that they have been powerless to prevent.

Bouchard was initially reluctant to join the other premiers, preferring to stick with Quebec's separatist agenda. However, he realized that in Saskatoon the provincial premiers had hit on a scheme which he could use to grab not only some power, but money too, from Ottawa.

Newt effect

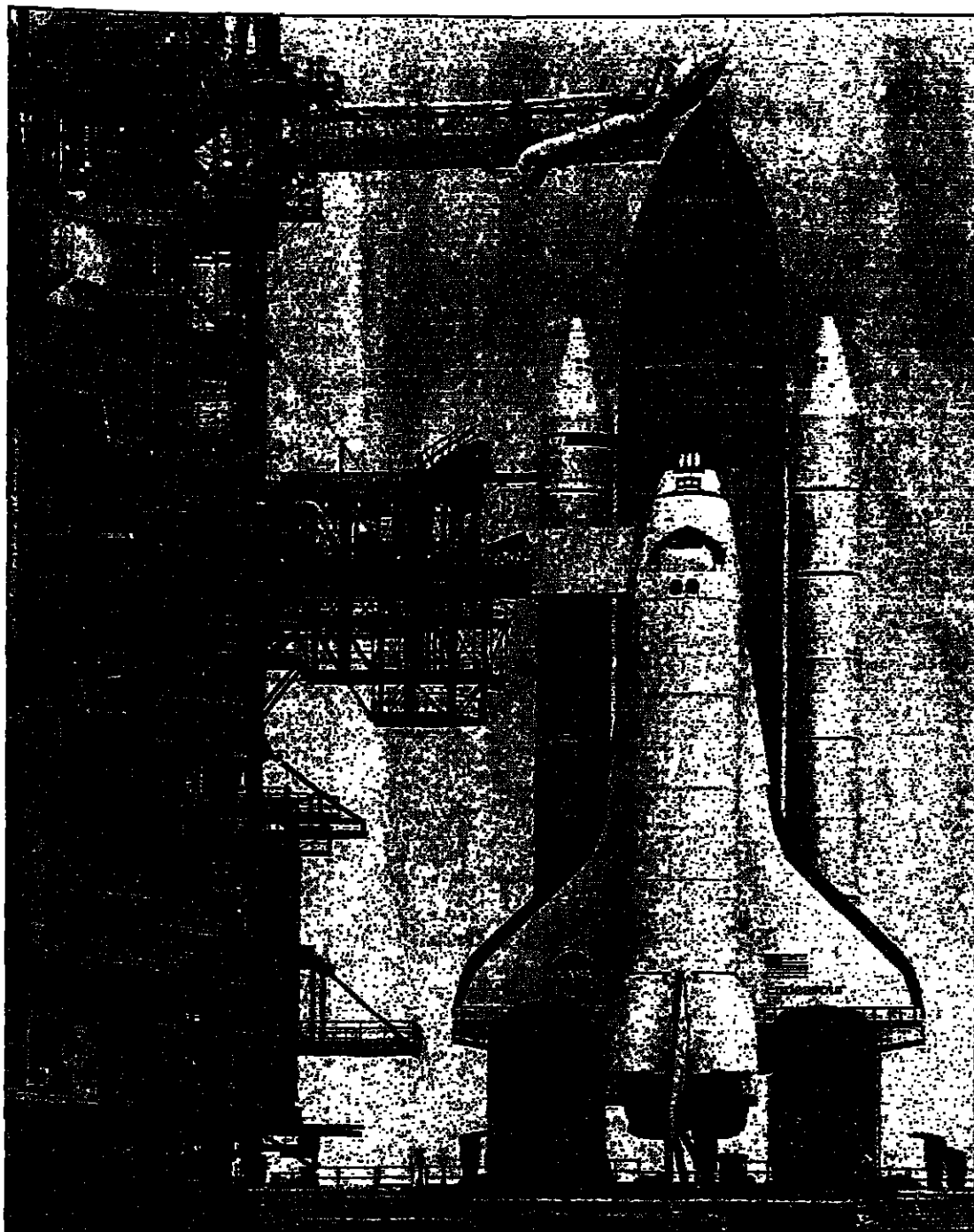
What the other provinces gain from having Quebec opt in to their opt-out scheme is a stick with which to beat the reluctant federal government. They can tell Ottawa to sign on to the social union, or face a separatist referendum in Quebec.

The social union talks will allow Bouchard to gloss over a little fact that is quietly being forgotten all around. The Parti Quebecois ran a fine campaign and predicted it would win five points or so more than it did. It was supported in this fantasy by polls, pundits, professors and press.

But just as American voters confounded Republicans and know-it-alls in their mid-term elections, Quebec voters left the experts with egg on their faces. Bouchard looked as happy with his victory as Newt Gingrich did with his.

No one is saying it out loud at a Parti Quebecois victory party, but it seems some Francophone Quebecers do not want a referendum. They parked their votes with Dumont's Democratic Action. Interestingly, Dumont had campaigned heavily for a ten-year time-out on the constitution.

There's only one thing that bothers newspaper columnists about that. If Quebec referendums are taken out of the news, what on earth are we going to write about Canada for the next ten years?



The space shuttle Endeavour sits on a Kennedy Space Center launch pad during a heavy rainstorm yesterday morning. A launch planned for yesterday was cancelled when an alarm sounded in the cockpit. Another attempt is planned for today.

Shuttle launch scrubbed at last minute

By MARCIA DINI

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — An alarm that went off in the cockpit just minutes before liftoff forced NASA to scrub yesterday's launch of space shuttle Endeavour on the first space station construction flight.

The alarm sounded with about five minutes remaining in the countdown. NASA counted down to the 31-second mark and debated what might have caused the master alarm to go off. Managers counted down several more seconds before calling off the attempt for the day.

Endeavour's pilots reported that the alarm sounded right around the time the shuttle hydraulic power units were turned on. But launch controllers quickly determined that all three units were working fine.

NASA spokesman Bruce Buckingham said a second launch attempt could be made later today, but that any such decision would have to be made by the engineers.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other dignitaries

from around the world had gathered to see Endeavour and its crew of six off following a year's delay caused by a cash crunch in Russia. Most were representatives of the 16 countries participating in the space station effort.

"This is a visionary idea," Albright told reporters. "This is an investment in the future." The mission promises to be one of the most difficult in space shuttle history. And the entire space station project promises to be the most difficult undertaking since the Apollo moon landings nearly 30 years ago.

"We're not testing just hardware as part of this program," said Mikhail Sinelschikov, a Russian space official. "We're testing our relationship very much and our mutual trust and our confidence in each other."

Two weeks ago, the Russians put the first piece of the space station into orbit. During Endeavour's 12-day flight, the astronauts will use the shuttle robot arm to capture the Russian piece and attach it to the American component. Then, two

astronauts will perform three spacewalks to hook up all the electrical connections and cables between the two cylinders.

The US piece, named Unity, is a connecting passageway. It is essentially an aluminum can with big holes where other chambers eventually will attach. It contains 10 km of wiring and more than 50,000 mechanical pieces.

The Russian component, named Zarya, which means sunrise, contains the power and propulsion systems that will keep the station aloft until the Russians can launch a permanent control module.

In all, more than 100 components weighing 450,000 kg are to be launched over the next five years, requiring 45 US and Russian flights.

Unity should have been put in orbit last December, but station assembly was put on hold because of Russia's economic crisis, which prevented the country's space agency from completing the permanent control module. NASA has since bailed out the Russian Space Agency.

Ecevit works on new Turkish gov't

ANKARA (Reuters) — Turkish prime minister-designate Bulent Ecevit acknowledged Thursday he faced serious problems in pulling together rival parties to save Turkey from crisis, but declared "I don't give in so easily."

President Suleyman Demirel Wednesday invited Ecevit, veteran leader of three governments in the 1970s, to form a cabinet.

Ecevit said he was focusing his

efforts on bringing together the two main conservative parties — the Motherland Party, led by outgoing premier Mesut Yilmaz, and the True Path Party of Tansu Ciller, another former prime minister.

"We know Motherland looks favorably on this formula but the attitude of True Path and how they see this formula is not yet clear. We will see in the next few days," he

said. Ecevit went on to add, "Of course if an another option emerges we will try that as well."

Whatever government emerges from Ecevit's efforts, if any, would probably be only a transitional administration to take the country to early polls set for April.

An Islamist-led government, also including Ciller, was eased out of power by the military last year.

Gambling cheat to tell all

By ROBERT MACY

LAS VEGAS (AP) — With slot machine cheats ripping off Nevada casinos for an estimated \$40 million a year, gambling regulators hope the master of the game can shed some light on how it's done before he returns to prison.

Dennis Nikrasch, the state's premier slot cheat, has raked in \$16 million over the past 22 years. He's headed back to federal prison for the second time and the length of

his stay could depend on how much he tells state and federal authorities. "He had the most sophisticated system we've ever seen," said Keith Copher, chief of enforcement for the Nevada Gaming Control Board. "We don't know that he's passed it along, and if he has, he'd better tell us."

Nikrasch, 57, and three companions were arrested in June. A federal prosecutor said Nikrasch was working on how to snare a \$17 million jackpot.

Bomb kills 14 in Algeria

ALGIERS (Reuters) — At least 14 Algerians were killed and 24 wounded in a bomb explosion yesterday near a market in the town of Khemis Miliana southwest of Algiers, government security forces said.

The toll brought to at least 37 the number of Algerians reported killed in the past four days in the violence-stricken North African country.

The bloodshed appeared to fall onto a gruesome pattern set in the previous four years when Moslem rebels stepped up attacks ahead of and during the annual Moslem fasting month of Ramadan.

Ramadan will be observed this year during the second half of December and first part of January.

Moslem rebels consider Ramadan an auspicious period for what they call their holy war. About 1,300 people, mostly civilians, were killed during the last Ramadan in massacres and bombings the government blamed on Moslem rebels.

Yesterday's bombing took place two days after the massacre of 12 villagers, most of them women and children, in a rebel raid in Sidi Rached hamlet, about 60 km west of Algiers.

White House demands GOP documents

By LAURIE KELLMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House lawyers, preparing a "vigorous defense" of President Bill Clinton, are demanding sensitive fund-raising memos and other material gathered by Republican impeachment investigators.

But an administration official said the defense of the president would go on regardless of whether Republicans provide the information.

Republican aides and Rep. Henry Hyde, who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, were not saying whether the inquiry would be expanded to include information on Clinton's campaign finances and Kathleen Willey, who says the president groped her.

Democratic committee officials, meanwhile, expressed doubt the GOP had found enough evidence of wrongdoing on those issues to include them in articles of impeachment.

Chief Democratic counsel Julian Epstein, who talks daily with his Republican counterpart, Thomas Mooney, predicted after a conversation with Mooney Wednesday night that the GOP would drop the campaign fund-raising and Willey matters. Epstein declined to comment about any specific conversations with Mooney.

Meanwhile, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., was circulating a proposal to censure the president. It would include a strong condemnation of Clinton and require him to pay a financial penalty and issue a statement acknowledging wrongdoing, according to King's spokesman, Kevin Fogarty.

The White House legal team

accepted an invitation from the committee Wednesday to make a defense before the inquiry next Tuesday and possibly even call witnesses, but demanded access to the fund-raising memos and additional investigative material related to Monica Lewinsky and Willey.

Willey, a former White House aide, contends that Clinton made an unwanted sexual advance, and the committee is trying to determine whether anyone tried to intimidate her from testifying about the alleged incident. Clinton denies making the advance.

"We will of course accept your invitation to appear before the committee and to present a defense on behalf of the president," White House lawyers Gregory B. Craig and Charles F.C. Ruff wrote Hyde.

"Once we have reviewed the material, we will be prepared to present a vigorous defense of the president," the letter said, asking to receive the documents at least 48 hours before the defense presentation.

Paul McNulty, spokesman for committee Republicans, said Wednesday night that the GOP was "certainly willing to notify the White House prior to its presentation next week of the issues it may wish to defend, although the president knows the truth better than anyone."

Heading into what lawmakers of both parties hope is the final two weeks of the impeachment inquiry, the committee is preparing for four days of hearings next week, beginning with the White House's defense and ending with votes on at least one article of impeachment.

Hizbullah Disaster

O Israel, how can you be true to your God, to yourself and to your destiny, if you desert your thousands of faithful South Lebanese friends and allies, who for 22 years have absorbed hundreds of shells and Katyushas for every single one fired into Israel by the PLO and now by Iran's Islamist Hizbullah — to a certain Hizbullah massacre?

Last Monday, English news on Israel Radio quoted an "expert" gullible enough to believe Hizbullah propaganda lies who called those Iranian-owned Islamist fanatics, "Lebanese patriots!" With such "expert" and media misinformation confusing Israelis 200 miles from Beirut, small wonder that the West as well as sentimental moms and peacenik demagogues cast away common sense regarding the mortal menace posed by Islamists here and there, and regarding whatever measure of peace northern Israel has, while rejecting the Israel Defense Forces' advice, and Israel's obligations not just to their SLA soldiers but to all her best friends in the Arab world, the equally menaced Christian-led South Lebanese.

Western diplomacy and its media wrote off those in the South even more than they did the rest of the hapless Lebanese, whom Washington, Paris, the UN, etc. forsook to appease the PLO and Islam. No one but Israel can or would stop the Hizbullah from murdering 20,000 or more Lebanese, who could not flee over the border, for their crime of allying themselves with Israel to stay alive and remain in their homes.

Thank God they aren't despised by Him! Isaiah (29:17-24) prophesied 27 centuries ago that Israel would not be ashamed or fearful, as it is the only nation on earth who cares if the Lebanese Christians live or die. Daily from July 9 to October 20, 1978, Syrian shells savaged East Beirut with no protests being heard from the "international community" or media, until Menachem Begin sent the Israel Air Force to say "Stop! Isaiah 29:23 said Jacob would see the Lebanese as his "children"! Jacob, How can you forsake your children!

A soldier or an army in mortal combat will take a grim beating if one of his hands is tied by politics. Such a situation cost the United States 60,000 men and defeat in Vietnam. Now US and Israeli peacenik politics tie IDF hands into defensive tactics in Lebanon that always cost heavy casualties, encourage the Islamists and discourage friends, until the fearful, as always, tilt to the enemy in case Israel does pull out. Israel, your hope is God and His word, and not the words of America, or of Arafat, or even of your own leaders!

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Yeshurun Central Synagogue

On the *shloshim* of the death of

LOUIS LOBER ז"ל

Honorary President of Histadrut Yeshurun and one of the founders of the synagogue

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 (19 Kislev 5759), following the *Arvit* prayer

Memorial addresses will be given by:

The Chief Rabbi of Israel
Rabbi Israel Meir Lau
Judge Prof. Menahem Elon
Prof. Carmi Horowitz

Arvit prayer at 5:15 p.m.

His friends and all those who cherish his memory are invited to attend.

ברוך דין האמת

We regret to announce the death of

OLGA WEISZ ז"ה

mother of Judit Blumenfrucht and Vera Resnick in London, England

The funeral will take place this morning, December 4, 1998, in England.

Bleeman, Blumenfrucht, Resnick and Weisz Families.

Shiva details:

Judit Blumenfrucht will be sitting from 10 a.m., Monday morning, December 7, at 26 Mishol Hakurtam, Ramot Aratzim, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-571-3454 Ma'ariv (only) at 8 p.m.

Vera Resnick will be sitting from today at 8 Rehov Barak, Apt. 1, Kfar Sava. Tel. 09-766-1963

Shiva terminates Thursday.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather

MICHAEL LANYI (Adler)

1898 – Nagy Varad, Transylvania

Marsha and Assaph Caspi
Thomas and Ricki Lanyi
Grandchildren,
Michal, Sharon, Yoav,
Jonathan, Talia,
Keren, Shira
Great-granddaughter, Hila

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אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



"ויכרתו ברית בבאר-שבע..."

"Thus they made a covenant at Beer-Sheba..."

בראשית: כ"א, כ"ב • Genesis: 21, 32

Prof. Avishay Braverman
President

Lord Weidenfeld of Chelsea
Chairman of the Board of Governors

Dialogue of Cultures in the Age of Globalization

The Camp David Accords: After 20 Years

11th Sinclair-House Debate

Under the auspices of The Chaim Herzog Center for
Middle East Studies & Diplomacy

In the presence of **Ezer Weizman**
President of the State of Israel

Herbert Quandt Foundation

Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Saturday, December 5, 1998

Monday, December 7, 1998

Opening Session

Camp David Exhibition

Welcoming Remarks:

Opening Session

Prof. Avishay Braverman, President, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Hans Graf von der Goltz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Herbert Quandt Foundation

Welcoming Remarks:

Address:

Prof. Avishay Braverman, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Aura Herzog
Dr. Dror Ze'evi, Chairperson, The Chaim Herzog Center
Dr. Winfried Veit, Director, The Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Israel

Prof. Shaul Friedlander, UCLA, Geneva and Tel Aviv
"The End of Innovation: Contemporary Industrial Conscience and the End of History"

Addresses:

Sunday, December 6, 1998

Ezer Weizman, President of the State of Israel

I. RELIGION AND CULTURE

Dr. Mostafa Khalil, Former Prime Minister of Egypt

Introduction and Chairman of discussion:

Cyrus R. Vance, Former US Secretary of State

Lord Weidenfeld of Chelsea, Chairman of the Board of Governors
"Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Differences and Convergences"

Christian perspectives:
Dr. Claudio Betti, Deputy Secretary General of the Community of S. Egidio, Rome:
"Authentic Religion as a Strength of Peace"

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

Round Table Discussion: "The Camp David Summit and its Consequences"

Monsignore Dr. Richard Mathes, Chargé of the Holy See, Jerusalem:
"Christian Occident, Christian Orient: A Short Study on the Relations between
Christian Faith and Culture"

Session I: UP THE SUMMIT'S SLOPE

Muslim perspective:
Dr. Mahmoud Abbasi, Shfar'am, Publisher, Author,
"The Principles of the Koran in Relation to Monotheistic Religions and of Sufism to Other Faiths"

Moderator: Dan Pattir, Second Television and Radio Authority, Israel
Introduction: Dr. Yoram Meital, Chairperson, Department of Middle East Studies, BGU
"Camp David: The End of the Beginning"

Jewish perspective:
Prof. Jacob Lassner, Northwestern University
"The Dialogue of Jewish-Muslim-Christian Relations"

Session II: AT THE SUMMIT

Discussion

Moderator: Amir Oren, Ha'aretz Daily, Israel
Introduction: Prof. Jerrold M. Post, M.D., Former Director, US Government Center for
the Analysis of Personality and Political Behavior
"The Camp David Profiles of Begin and Sadat: Bridging the Personality Gap"

II. GLOBALIZATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES: THE MIDDLE EAST

Session III: DOWN THE SUMMIT'S SLOPE

Introduction and Chairman of discussion:

Moderator: Prof. Bruce R. Kuniholm, Duke University, USA

Prof. Dr. Michael Stürmer, Director, Research Institute for International Politics and Security

Introduction: Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Director, Ibn Khaldun Center, Egypt

Prof. Avishay Braverman, Ben-Gurion University
"Globalization and the Impact on Developing Countries"

Session IV: TODAY AND TOMORROW: THE MIDDLE EAST IN WORLD POLITICS

Dr. Eberhard von Koerber, Senior Adviser to the CEO and Corporate Management, Asea Brown Boveri, Zurich:
"The Role of Business and NGOs in Globalization to minimize Clashes and Loser Syndromes"

Chairperson: Dr. Zvi Shtaubert, Vice President, BGU
Introduction: Dr. Harold H. Saunders, Director, International Affairs, the Charles F.
Kettering Foundation, Washington, D.C.
"What the World has learned from the Arab-Israeli Peace Process"

Dov Lautmann, Chairman, Delta/Galil Industries, Tel Aviv
"Economic Cooperation in the Middle East"

Wednesday, December 9, 1998

Visit to the Palestinian Authority and Jerusalem (by special invitation only)

Prof. Hisham Awartani, al-Najah University and the
Center for Palestinian Research and Studies:
"Palestinian-Israeli Relations after Wye"

With the participation of the Camp David negotiators*:
Alfred L. Atherton, USA, Ambassador-at-Large

Prof. Aryeh Arnon, Dept. of Economics, Ben-Gurion University
"Sovereignty and Economic Development: The Case of Israel and Palestine"

Simcha Dinitz, Israel, Ambassador to the US

Discussion

Hermann F. Eilts, USA, Ambassador to Egypt

Cultural Evening: "THE LAST ENEMY"
Production by Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli Arab and Jewish actors, recently performed by the Dalal Theater
in Tel Aviv, under the auspices of the Peres Center for Peace, and at the UN in New York
Sponsored by the Ladislav Lasz Ecumenical Fund

Osama El Baz, Egypt, Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Monday, December 7, 1998

Itzhak Hoffi, Israel, Director of the Mossad

III. DISSOLVING BOUNDARIES BETWEEN NATIONS: THE EFFECTS OF BUSINESS

Introduction and Chairman of discussion:
Lord Weidenfeld of Chelsea

Yehiel Kadishai, Director, Prime Minister's Office

Dr. h.c. Horst Teitschik, Member of the Board of BMW AG
"The Business Community and Nation-State in the Age of Globalization"

Dan Pattir, Israel, Spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office

Said Masri, Jordan River Company, Amman
"Water: The Dilemma and the Hope"

Meir Rosenne, Israel, Legal Adviser to the Foreign Ministry

Dan Catarivas, Deputy Director General, International Affairs, Office of the Treasury
"Joint Ventures in the Middle East: Past and Future"

Elyakim Rubinstein, Israel, Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ofra Strauss-Lahat, Deputy President and CEO, Strauss-Elite Group, Israel
"Prospective Joint Ventures in the Food Industry"

Harold H. Saunders, USA, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern
and South Asian Affairs

Discussion

Avraham Tamir, Israel, Major General; Head of Planning Branch, IDF

IV. PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Introduction and Chairman of discussion:
Danny Rubinstein, Ha'aretz and Ben-Gurion University

Cyrus Vance, USA, Secretary of State

Uri Savir, Former Director-General, Israeli Foreign Ministry

Ezer Weizman, Israel, Minister of Defense

Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh, Managing Director, Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction

*Position at Camp David

Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Chairman, Ibn Khaldun Center, Cairo

And also:

Prof. Amos Oz, Ben-Gurion University
"Israelis and Arabs: Healing the Wounds"

Bassam Abu Sharif, PA, Adviser to President Yasser Arafat

Camp David Exhibition

Salah Bassiouny, Egypt, The Cairo Peace Movement

For further information please call 07-6461282

Douglas G. Brinkley, USA, University of New Orleans

Marwan Dudian, Jordan, Senator

Shlomo Gazit, Israel, Major General (Ret.); Former Chief of Military Intelligence

Hani Al-Hassan, PA, Head, Foreign Relations Dept., FATEH

Arye Naor, Israel, School of Management, BGU

Joel Peters, Israel, Department of Politics and Government, BGU

Edward S. Walker, Jr., USA, Ambassador to Israel

For further information please call 07-6472538

David Levy: Not such a buffoon

MARK A. HELLER

David Levy has been the butt of comedians and the subject of satirists for so long that he is no longer even fair game; so many pokes and jokes have been directed at him that each new one just looks like a cheap shot.

Mocked for his pompous speaking style and his pompadour hair style, his overweening ambition and his underwhelming intellect, he seems to be a stereotype of the social climbing parvenu who somehow manages to keep insinuating himself into a better class of society, but can't stop his embarrassed hosts from laughing behind his back.

The latest chapter in the saga of Levy's quest for acceptance and respectability has once again evoked the familiar chorus of condescending comments. At

Those who look more closely at David Levy's record will find, behind the posturing, a great deal of common sense that, if heeded, would have spared the country a great deal of grief

first, when it was thought that he was aiming at the National Infrastructure Ministry as a condition for rejoining the coalition, the conventional explanation was either that he wanted the portfolio for the jobs and patronage that went with it, or that he wanted it because he didn't want the hard work associated with the other available portfolio: Finance.

The subsequent announcement that he really does want Finance evoked mirth on the part of those who believe he lacks the depth for the position, or dread on the part of those who believe that he lacks the responsibility. This is all reminiscent of the reaction when he took on Foreign Affairs: The map is just getting in over his head.

For some reason, others, with even more dubious track records are not subject to the same skepticism. Ariel Sharon, for example, ruined agriculture as minister of agriculture and then ruined national security as minister of defense, but no one thought it was either funny or absurd when he went to the Foreign Ministry.

It is not entirely clear why Levy continues to provoke this response. Once, when he was a pioneer carrying the Sephardi standard onto the Ashkenazi-dominated national stage, it might arguably have been ascribed to the resentment of established elites at the pretensions of an upstart who didn't know his place. But since then, lots of other Sephardi politicians have walked down the trail he blazed, passed him by, and succeeded in being taken very seriously, indeed. Not so David Levy. He is still ridiculed, still looked down upon — not because of what he represents, but simply because of what he himself is, or at least appears to be.

IN FACT, the appearance is deceiving and the distinction is important. Levy's pride may indeed make his skin look a bit too thin, and he may lack the sophistication or linguistic skills

or formal knowledge of many (though not all) of his once and future colleagues. But those who look more closely at his record will find, behind the posturing, a great deal of common sense that, if heeded, would have spared the country a great deal of grief.

Earlier than most on his side of the political spectrum, Levy appreciated that Israel's adventure in Lebanon was leading to a dead end. Earlier than most on his side of the spectrum, he injected a voice of realism and moderation into the debate about Israel's relations with the Palestinians. Earlier than most on his side of the spectrum, he understood that the neglect of social issues is not just a blot on the country's conscience, but a prescription for destructive strife.

And even now, his is one of the few voices heard on his side of the spectrum condemning the amulet-mongers who pander to superstition for short-term political gain, at the risk of a long-term demoralization that threatens the prosperity and even the viability of this country in the next century.

As these lines are being written, it is not yet clear that Levy will really move into the finance minister's office. But one reason why his critics are so unnerved by the prospect is the fear that he will translate his social sensitivity into a busted budget. It is true that Levy's agenda is often expressed in rhetoric that oscillates between bathos and demagoguery, and there is a particular danger that, with the whiff of elections in the air, fiscal policy

will become a tool of Binyamin Netanyahu's reelection campaign (just as it was part of Menachem Begin's reelection campaign in the spring of 1981, when Israel was suddenly awash with new Subarus), with runaway inflation a likely consequence.

But even if there are elections soon, and especially if there are not, a bit more social sensitivity would not be amiss in a country that has somehow become home to one of the least egalitarian societies in the Western world.

Besides, sensitivity to the social concerns that Levy has expressed does not necessarily have to come at the cost of a busted budget. It is also possible to reorder priorities. Rather than perpetuating concealed unem-

ployment in yeshivot and paving big roads to small settlements, resources can be directed to an educational system that can develop employable skills and a decent infrastructure network in and leading to the places where jobs already exist.

Of course, there is no guarantee that Levy, if he does get the job, can do any of these things. But neither is there any reason to assume, in advance, that he can't. At the very least, by his cabinet and coalition partners (who really have nothing to boast about), by the Labor Party (which bequeathed a massive and untenable deficit), by his reflexive critics, and especially by a prime minister who has discovered that he still needs David Levy, after all.



Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

The true critic

True critics — like Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's latest detractor Binyamin Netanyahu — can be neither fair, sincere, nor rational, at least according to Oscar Wilde's *The Critic as Artist*.

Fair, wrote Wilde, they cannot be because, unlike auctioneers, critics must be biased; sincerity cannot be their lot, because when taken in small portions it would be "dangerous" and in spoonfuls "absolutely fatal"; and reason is also beyond their pale, since "there is nothing sane about the worship of beauty."

Whether or not economic policy-making can be viewed as a form of art which "creates in listener and spectator a form of divine madness," Netanyahu's sideswiping of his central banker last week passed for that true critic's critique.

Fair it wasn't, because Netanyahu's remark that he would see to it that interest rates are lowered, was catapulted from overseas at a central bank which, by its mandate, cannot publicly retort in kind to such a blatant attack on its authority and judgment.

Sincere it wasn't, because Netanyahu, by far our most economically educated and free-marketting premier yet, knows darn well that independent, impartial, and resolute central bankers are prerequisites for a sound macro-economy.

And rational this attack was not because it came 48 hours before newly released data indicated that things are getting better: with the jobless rate sinking 0.8 percent to 8.4% after having seemed headed toward double-digits, the alarm over an economic catastrophe, which Netanyahu was trying to placate, looms in its true light — farfetched.

Surely, our economically savvy and politically hypersensitive prime minister had his reasons for spanking his central banker; and as usual, they had less to do with long-term planning and more with blame for the recent economic past, which in turn, it is hoped, will impact the immediate electoral future.

It's been nearly two-and-a-half years since that crisp spring evening at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, when a newly elected Binyamin Netanyahu shouted in front of a sweating mob of soccer hooligans: "The State of Israel is embarking on a new road!"

Stunned by his electoral upset, no one scoffed anymore at the sound of the baritone voice which promised to reinvent government, set loose the economy, and reshape Arab-Israeli relations.

Thirty months, two neo-Oslo accords, and a host of undelivered domestic reforms later, we know better: Netanyahu may have been long on gospel, but he was scathingly short on plans. Now, with his political credit all but exhausted, he needs scapegoats to blame for his failure to capitalize on a hard-won, but tragically wasted, victory; and no two men are better suited for that role than the intellectually impressive but politically toothless Jacob Frenkel and Yaakov Neeman.

Blaming Frenkel for inflation's recent eruption, like scolding him for swiftly treating it with a heavy dose of interest-rate therapy, is the equivalent of an AIDS patient accusing the doctors of having made him contract HIV in the first place.

THE HARD facts are that Netanyahu has failed to launch the sweeping economic change he

promised. While the progress he has achieved on the privatization front — most notably in the banking sector — is a lot more than that of his predecessors, he has yet to herald any change on the infrastructure, public spending, and taxation fronts.

And that, not the central bank's monetary policy, is why inflation, employment, and growth seem as troubling as they do. The central bank, like that AIDS doctor, can merely treat the symptoms of the financial disease which inevitably plagues those who sleep simultaneously with budget gobblers, ranging from university students and Shas yeshivot to inept mayors and capital-aid-begging industrialists.

On infrastructure Netanyahu promised a rail and subway revolution. Had those been put in serious motion they would have initially generated thousands of low-tech jobs for today's unemployed, and ultimately invigorated our chronically lackluster geographic periphery.

On public spending Netanyahu raised hopes, with his prudent NIS 7.2 billion budget cut shortly after assuming office, that he would proceed from that stopgap measure to an orderly tax-cut plan that would make the government spend less and Middle Israel retain more of its hard-earned shekels.

As it turned out, Netanyahu had no plans whatsoever for where to start on all these fronts. Britain's Tony Blair set out days after his assumption of office to fully emancipate the Bank of England and grant Scotland a parliament. Good or bad, he had a plan. Germany's Gerhard Schroeder also lost no time presenting a tax-reform plan to the Bundestag. He too had a plan. Netanyahu, apparently, needed none.

It took a precious year-and-a-half until he had Neeman prepare a tax-cut blueprint, and that too was largely thanks to Neeman's own inclinations.

As a tax expert, Neeman really was — and remains — eager to undo such deformities as 95% of Israel's tax revenues coming from that mere 25% of the citizenry which easily reaches a 60% marginal tax rate for incomes which elsewhere in the West would be taxed at barely 30%.

An Neeman's plan, maximum tax rates would gradually decline to 35%, while a host of sectors — from industrialists and brokers to immigrants and settlers — would part with a slew of breaks and exemptions that add up to a hefty NIS 20 billion annually and make ours the absurd, unfair, and dated tax system with which we are so familiar.

Unfortunately, this scheme — like Neeman's swiftly-abandoned call to make more haredim work — did not win more than faint lip service from Netanyahu. Evidently, it's easier for the prime minister to renege on his Thatcherist talk than to face up to vested-interest groups. Somewhere, not far from Bibi's office in Givat Ram, King Zedekiah once threw Jeremiah into a cistern because that sober, bold, and troopless prophet uttered the unpleasant truth about Babylon's unbeatable power.

Now the prime minister is seeking to confine Frenkel and oust Neeman because they speak the truth about budget robbery and taxation pillage, the mainstays of the plundering of Middle Israel. Zedekiah ultimately realized his misjudgment, but not before being captured, exiled, and blinded. When will Bibi learn?

Happiness ain't fun

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

after object rarely does more than stifle the gnawing for a period of time.

If a person has \$100, say our Sages, he wants \$200. If he has \$200, he wants \$400. For that reason, no man dies with even half his material desires realized. Every time we satisfy the hunger, it only returns in greater force than before.

By focusing on that which is outside of us rather than what is wrong with us, we lose all sense of who we are

A MOMENT'S reflection would show us why our efforts to quell our inner turmoil are doomed to failure. Our problem is an internal vacuum. But we seek to cure it with things that must of necessity remain external. No physical object can be amalgamated into our being or fill our internal void.

But instead of recognizing this, we convince ourselves that we erred only in our choice of objects: We needed a Rolls, not a Cadillac, or two Cadillacs, not just one.

By focusing on that which is outside of us rather than what is wrong with us, we lose all sense of who we are, what makes us unique, what special tasks we have been created for. Like a teenager whose life revolves around the telephone and the mirror, we lose all sense of ourselves, except as we exist in the eyes of others.

Three things render life not worth living, say our Sages: jealousy, the pursuit of honor, and the pursuit of physical pleasure. And each of them reflects in one way or another an impoverished sense of self.

One who craves honor requires the admiration of others for his self-esteem. A jealous person defines himself in comparison to others, rather than in terms of his own potential. Everyone else becomes in his eyes a competitor. If someone else amasses more material goodies or gains more recognition, he wins. Finally, the person who is in thrall to his physical desires is dependent on other people or physical objects for his satisfaction.

But the soul, which is not of this

world, cannot be satisfied with the goods of this world. Only curing our own imperfections can ultimately quiet the ache in our souls, for only such changes as we make in ourselves can be more than momentary sedatives.

No person, the Alter of Kelm taught, is ever satisfied with a borrowed object. Every material object is, in a sense, borrowed. It cannot become intrinsic to us, part of our essence, and sooner or later it will no longer belong to us. But what we make of ourselves when we conquer our anger or resist the impulse to speak ill of someone else or train ourselves to reach into our pockets for every passing beggar cannot be taken away from us.

"Who is a rich man?" ask our Sages. And they answer, "He who is satisfied with his portion." They do not say that such a person is also a rich man, but that he is the only rich man. No matter how much a person possesses, he is a poor man as long as he is driven by a hunger for more.

Upon meeting his brother Jacob for the first time in decades, Esau tells him, "I have a great deal," implying a desire for yet more. Keep it for yourself, Jacob replied, "I have everything."

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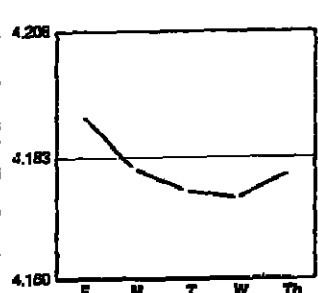
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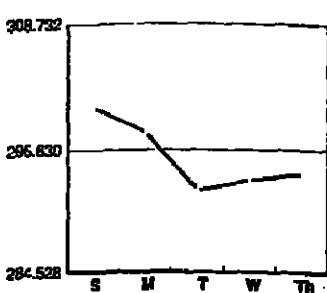
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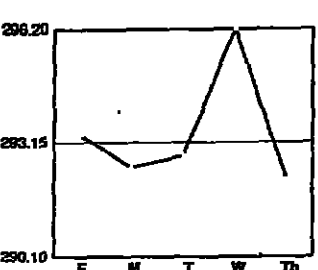


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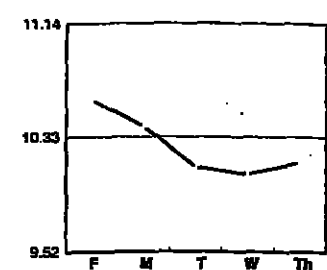
GOLD

\$ per ounce

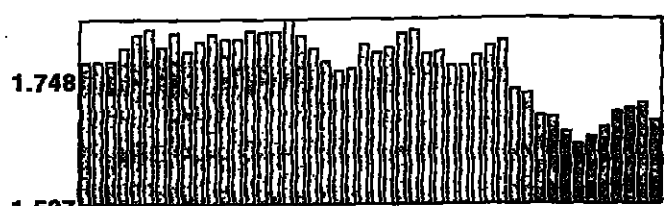


OIL

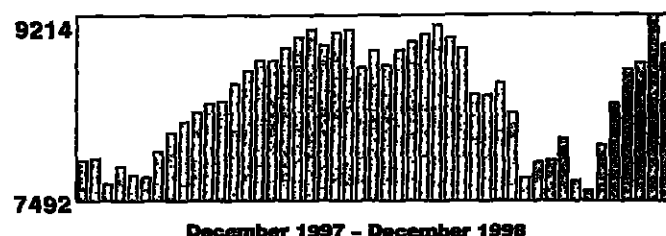
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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BITS & BYTES

By NICKY BLACKBURN

A safer system for safes

Omen Systems, a specialist in the development and manufacture of electronic safes, has introduced a new audit control function which helps improve internal security.

The sophisticated audit device, which was developed by the R&D department of the Kibbutz Hatzor company, connects to an electronic safe and allows maximum control over safe use. It provides relevant details on safe use including a record of up to 200 of the last locking and unlocking operations, all information on the codes of designated users, and exact opening and closing times. Atar Nadif, Omen's marketing director, emphasized the importance of the new system for organizations requiring a high security and classification system, to prevent safe use by non designated users. If there is suspicion of theft or code leakage, the system establishes the exact day and hour when the safe was used.

ECI delivers \$6 million order to BT

ECI Telecom announced the receipt and partial delivery of a \$6 million order to supply Toll Quality compression terminals to British Telecom (BT).

The DTX-240 and DTX-360 Toll Quality systems will be used by BT to increase the telephone traffic carrying capacity between Britain and the rest of the world.

Under the new contract ECI, a leading provider of digital telecommunications and data transmission systems, has begun to supply its DTX systems to facilitate Toll Quality voice compression and fax traffic over BT international links.

Pinhas Reich, ECI's associate vice-president of marketing and sales compression technology, said the contract would increase the number of DTX terminals already being used in BT networks.

Crystal offers Euro solution to Spanish firm

Herzliya based company Crystal Systems Solutions and Ernst and Young Spain have been awarded a Euro conversion project for a large Spanish insurance company, it was announced this week.

The project, for Plus-Ultra of Madrid, will involve the conversion of several thousand COBOL programs. Crystal will use its C-Euro conversion product, which manages the three approaches to Euro-conversion - Big Bang, Single to Dual, and On-going.

This is not the first time that Ernst and Young has worked with Crystal, which is a member of the Formula Group, the largest public information technology group in Israel. Before now, the two companies have worked together on Year 2000 projects, among others.

An end to bounced checks?

MKM, a specialist in business data collection, has developed a new software for inspecting checks on-line, which can be connected to any computer accounting software available in Israel.

Called Checkmaster, the software instantly checks the bank account number, and the buyer's ID number, against a dynamic database of bounced checks, at the same time that the check is being paid in.

Using this software, bank officials can immediately discover whether the bank has honored all of the customer's previous checks.

Shlomo Sharif, MKM's general manager, said the database is updated daily, with data of bounced checks from all the commercial branches in the market. The software is compatible to any computer accounting software.

New Rad modem offers higher speeds

RAD Data Communications has developed a new fiber optic modem which allows carriers to improve their Quality of Service infrastructure and offer higher speeds to enable greater bandwidth.

The new FOMI-E1/T1 fiber optic modem extends E1/T1 interfaces over fiber optic links enabling delivery of services to customers over the Local Loop. The new modem has a 100-kilometer range and is available as a stand-alone unit or in a card version.

In wake of IMF report:

Treasury, central bank crisis widens

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

Relations between the Finance Ministry and Bank of Israel reached a new low yesterday, with senior officials in both institutions accusing the other of leaking reports to the media and claiming this week's initial findings on the Israeli economy by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) supported their own policies.

For the first time, officials in each organization are willing to criticize the policies and actions of the other.

"Relations are definitely at a low," a top Treasury staffer said. "On some professional matters we do agree, and on those we talk."

The Treasury's top professional brass was seething yesterday, accusing the central bank of pressuring the IMF into altering its report on the state of the economy at the 11th hour. The Bank of Israel adamantly denies this, pointing the finger at the Treasury for allegedly leaking the report to the media before the time agreed upon with the IMF team, forcing the central bank to apologize to the IMF for the slight.

The two bodies each say the document backs its stance on the

macroeconomic issues of the day.

The Treasury says the report recommends a reexamination of the need to intervene in foreign currency trading, not on a daily basis but in a "limited" fashion, "without unduly encouraging risky behavior." This, according to Treasury officials, backs its view that the central bank should have intervened in trading over the last two months, something they maintain would have reduced the need

for a 4% interest rate hike last month.

The Bank of Israel insists the report suggests the 1999 inflation target be kept at 4%, in line with its thinking. The bank also maintains the IMF statement on intervention matches its policy to the letter.

Yet the Treasury and central bank both admit they disagree on the key subject of intervention.

The battle between the two was further complicated when Prime

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday that next year's inflation target must be raised. He said 4% is "unrealistic."

His statement came just two days after the cabinet agreed to leave the target at its present level until after the December consumer price index is published on January 15. This would give ministers an opportunity to decide whether inflation has been brought back into check following the

sharp depreciation in the value of the shekel since October.

Several ministers are calling for the inflation rate target to be set in band form anywhere between 4%-6% and 6%-7% next year. This year, the target was set at 7%-10% and now looks likely to be met, after a 3% jump in the consumer price index in October and a further steep rise predicted for the November figure, which will be published in 11 days.

IMF recommendations:

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) this week handed a document containing these preliminary proposals to Finance Minister Yashov Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel. The IMF's final statement on the condition of the Israeli economy in 1998 will only be published next year.

The Bank of Israel must keep a "right monetary stance" in the short-term, gradually reducing interest rates after that.

The government must make clear its 1999 inflation target. It is preferable to keep it at the present four percent rather than raising it in line with the demands of several cabinet members.

The inflation target should be set on a

multi-year rather than annual basis.

Inflation as expressed in the consumer price index should reflect the underlying inflation rate, which would exclude the highly volatile housing and fruit and vegetable indexes.

New thought should be given to the question of whether limited intervention in the foreign exchange market could be undertaken.

The government must stick to its commitment to reduce the budget deficit to 2% of the gross domestic product next year.

The government must urge workers to show moderation in pay talks.

The minimum wage should be indexed to inflation rather than wages and should reflect

the level of work experience of individuals.

Progress should be made on the privatization program and the Treasury-proposed tax reform.

Restrictive practices should be lifted in the energy, pharmaceuticals and motor vehicle industries.

The government should encourage the break-up of financial conglomerates and explore ways to allow more foreign banks to enter the economy.

There should be greater vigilance in the banking sector, which could include "raising minimum capital requirements, demanding larger provisions and encouraging limited dividend payouts."

David Zey Harris

Holocaust survivors try to delay Bankers Trust takeover

By GAIL APPLESON

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Holocaust survivors on Wednesday asked the US Federal Reserve to delay approval of Deutsche Bank's takeover of Bankers Trust Corp. until a probe of the German bank's World War II activities is completed.

In a letter to Federal Reserve Bank of New York President William McDonough, lawyers for a group of plaintiffs who have sued Deutsche Bank to recover stolen assets urged that regulatory approval be withheld until the bank accounts for profits made through its "intimate financial collaboration" with the Nazis.

"Deutsche Bank cannot be permitted to obtain the benefits and protections of doing business in the United States without a full accounting and disgorgement of these assets, which were obtained in violation of international law," the lawyers wrote.

US banking analysts said the request could stall the approval process, but would probably not derail it. "I doubt that it is a threat to the deal, but it could be a threat to timing," said David Berry, an analyst at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Inc. in New York. "These issues are not necessarily issues that have traction with any kind of law the Fed is supposed to be enforcing. But I do not think the Fed is insensitive to this issue either."

The letter, on behalf of Holocaust survivors and relatives of victims, asks the bank to condition any regulatory approval of the merger on Deutsche Bank's complete repayment of all stolen assets as well as profits obtained from the bank's financing and control of companies that used slave labor.

On Monday, Deutsche Bank announced it would buy Bankers Trust, the eighth-largest US bank, for \$10.1 billion. The deal is expected to be completed by May.

That purchase would be the largest foreign takeover of an American bank and would create the world's biggest bank in terms of assets.

Eleven Euro countries cut rates

FRANKFURT (Bloomberg) -

The central banks of the 11 countries adopting a common currency on January 1 yesterday unexpectedly cut interest rates to combat what German Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer called a "clouded" economic outlook.

The Bundesbank and the Bank of France cut their benchmark rates by 30 basis points to 3.0 percent, leaving other borrowing rates unchanged. The central banks of Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Spain, and Portugal also cut their key rates to 3%. Italy, the country which had the highest rates, reduced its benchmark rate to 3.5%.

Luxembourg, the smallest economy in the euro, has a currency union with Belgium.

The European Central Bank

wants to have the rate discussion out of the way," said Stefan Schneider, an economist at Banque Paribas in Frankfurt. "The economic situation is deteriorating more rapidly than initially thought."

The reductions in interest rates represent a "de facto decision" on the unified level of rates, the European Central Bank said.

The rate cuts "reflect a thorough discussion" by the ECB's 17-member Governing Council "leading to a consensus on the basis of a common assessment of the economic, monetary and financial situation in the euro area," the ECB said.

The German economy grew 0.9% in the third quarter, powered by industrial output, the Federal Statistics Office said yesterday. However, economists say the pace

probably won't last in coming months as exports slow.

Growth in Europe's largest economy will slow to 2% next year from 2.7% in 1998 as exports suffer from recession in Asia, the government's council of economic advisers or so-called "Wise Men" said in their autumn report.

German business confidence fell to its lowest level in October in almost two years, the Ifo economic research institute said. German factory orders rose a meager 0.1%

in September from the previous months. Industrial output fell 2.6% the same month.

The French economy grew at its 'slowest pace in 1 1/2 years in the third quarter and business confidence fell in November to its lowest in 19 months.

French national output rose a lower-than-expected 0.5% in the third quarter, showing domestic demand hasn't completely replaced exports as the engine of French economic growth.



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Black Hills	97.5	-1.875
Boeing	62.625	-0.625
Chemical Bank	13.688	-0.0125
Ingersoll Rand	45.875	-0.375
Herald Star	7	0
Intel Corp.	108.5	-4.8625
Interco	8.375	0.25
Intertek	3.5625	-0.0625
Intl Flaw & Fr.	.42	0
Intl Harvester	21.375	-0.375
Intl Paper	43.625	0.0625
Interpic	86.25	0
Jefferson Pk	48.4375	-0.25
Johnson & J	73.875	-0.8125
K Mart	14.5	0
Kaiser Aluminum	34.375	-0.8625
KLA Instruments	42.875	-0.0625
Kor Electronics	37.875	-0.375
NBC-McGee	32.625	0
Kroy Corp.	30.75	-1.0625
Kryofab Inc.	37.875	-0.8125
Knight Fruit Prod	27.375	0
King Hilder	27.5	-0.3125
Kopier	53.625	0
Lai Logic	19.885	0
Leggett & Plax	22.6375	+0.1875
Laureate Natl	30.1875	-0.625
Lib Gen	34.375	-0.3125
Limited Inc.	57.8625	-0.25
Linear Technol	78.125	-0.5625
Lincoln	60.6625	-0.375
Ultron	60.0625	-0.375
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Lockhead Corp.	101.125	-1.8625
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Low's	74.375	-0.6875
Long Drug Store	36.875	-0.0625
Loral Corp.	17.5	0
Los Angeles Publ	17.875	-0.375
Lubrizol Co Inc	44.4375	0
Lumber Tech	11.5	-1.5
Lubitel	26.125	-0.0625
Madco	4.825	-0.125
Machinex	31.875	0
Marx Camc	31.875	0
Martco Inc	28.875	-0.1875
Math Sci	34.375	0
Marval	37.875	-0.375
Maxco Corp.	37.875	0
Mechanical Corp.	34	0
Melroe Inc	57.5625	-2.5625
New Day S	57.5625	-0.0625
Mingling Corp.	56.5	0
McMurtree	24.4375	-0.575
Moncrieffe	1.25	0
McGraw Hill	82.4375	-0.375
Mead Corp.	11.25	-1.25
Mead Corp.	50.0625	-0.375
Meatronics	69.5	-1.875
Mellon Bk	2	0
Meritor Graphics	8.8375	-0.0625
Mesa	13.5	-0.375
Metrotech Corp.	31.1875	-2.6375
Metal Lynch	89.5	0
Morm Retail	66.75	-0.75
Metric Corp.	121.125	-8.25
Milipone	28.8125	-0.0625
Life Safety Appl	41.5	0
Impressions Mktg	79.3125	-1.8625
Medical Energy	10.5	-1.375
Mobile Corp.	49.5	-0.1875
Model Telecomm	32.875	-0.125
Moore	4.875	0
Monarch Machn	4.875	0
Monsieur	43.125	-0.8125
Morgan (P)	4.0625	-0.0625
Morton Int'l	27.125	-0.3625
Motrol Inc	61.375	-0.375
Murphy Oil	38.0625	-0.0625
Nacno Ind	90.5	-1.0625
National Chem	33.625	-0.375
Nashua Corp	10	0
Natl City Corp	16.875	-0.1875
Natl Steel	16.625	-1.25
Natl Sav Ind	16.875	-0.1875
NW Banc	26.375	0
Novartis Int	26.3625	-0.575
Nutrition	25.375	-1.75
New England Ed	42.825	-0.125
O'Brien	26.25	-1.25
News Corp	57.375	0
NYS Gas & Elec	30.625	0
NY Times	30.625	-0.375
Newsprint Mining	16.125	-1.8625
Norfolk Norwalk	46.125	-0.125
Nor Inc	41.375	-0.375
Nor Inc	38.5	-2.25
NRI Industries	13.625	-0.5625
Noble Ann	12.1	-1.1875
Nordstrom	102.688	-2.1875
Noridian	32.25	-2.75
Norfolk Southern	29.875	0
Northern Ltl	18.625	0
Northern Telecom	48.1875	-0.3125
Norwest	77.375	-0.3125
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The European rate cuts also clear the way for further reductions by the Federal Reserve, traders said. The Fed already lowered its target for fed funds — overnight loans between banks — by 75 basis points in three moves from September 29 to November

priced back into the market for sometime between March and June," said Sal Greco, a bond strategist at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

jobs report. Analysts expect a gain of 169,000 jobs in the month, after an increase of 116,000 in October.

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'I won't lose my son in a futile cause'

Four members of the Four Mothers group tell Allison Kaplan Sommer why they are pushing for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon

Linda Ben-Zvi's elegant living room in the upscale Herzliya neighborhood of Nof Yam seemed about as far as one could get from the turmoil and tension of south Lebanon.

But as Ben-Zvi, her son Arik, and three other women sat down in the airy room this week to discuss their involvement in the Four Mothers movement, the loud buzz of planes headed up the Mediterranean coast to the northern border could be heard, serving to remind them of their cause.

All four of the women — Ben-Zvi, Rachel Ginsburg-Shahar, Linda Griver and Paula Miodownik — have been active in the Four Mothers group since shortly after it was founded in the spring of 1997 by four Upper Galilee women.

Like the northern women, they joined when their sons were serving in the army, and have had to wrestle with the challenge of supporting their children while expressing their political views.

Ben-Zvi, an immigrant from the US, first learned of Four Mothers from an article in *The Jerusalem Post* in May 1997, and contacted them just before their first demonstration in Tel Aviv was scheduled to take place. A year earlier, she had moved back to Israel with her Israeli-born husband after many years in America.

When they returned, their son Arik, who had returned to Israel before them, was serving in the IDF.

"It was always clear to Arik that he would serve in a combat unit. If he was going to come back to Israel to serve, he wanted to do something meaningful and make a contribution," she explains.

But, says Ben-Zvi, a lecturer in theater at Tel Aviv University, the fact that her son was serving in Lebanon did not change her deep opposition to the presence of Israeli forces in the security zone.

Despite — or perhaps because of — the fact that those forces included her own son, she felt a need to do something.

"So I went to that first Tel Aviv Four Mothers demonstration, and found two other women standing under a tree in Rabin Square," she recalls. "We debated for a while as to the best place to stand, and ended up in front of the Gan Ha'ir mall, 12 of us. We exchanged phone numbers, and that was the nucleus for Four Mothers in the center of the country."

Ben-Zvi's involvement with the group has grown ever since. She currently sits on its board and serves as its international coordinator and spokesperson, dealing with press queries from spots as

far-flung as Scandinavia, Australia and Japan.

WHILE he respects her involvement and activism, Ben-Zvi's son, Arik, admits that, during his army days, he did not agree with his mother's position favoring unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

"I would come home from the army on leave and we would have pretty serious discussions about it. At the time, I was basically convinced that the army's line was correct, and that we were in Lebanon because we were protecting the northern settlements."

Today, more than a year after he was discharged, Arik's views more closely resemble his mother's, enough for the Tel Aviv University political science student to have taken on the job of student organizer for Four Mothers.

"My thinking began to change after I was discharged, after I got some distance from the situation and began to think about what we were actually achieving [in Lebanon] and what kind of a price we were paying for those achievements. I reached the conclusion that, really, what I had been doing there was not protecting the country. I was protecting myself and my friends — but little else."

A moment that stood out in Arik's change of heart took place during a post-army trip to the US, during which he visited the Vietnam War memorial in Washington.

"That memorial — the striking black wall with all the names of the soldiers on it — made such a statement about the futility of that war. It leaves you asking why all those people had to die, and what they died for."

"The thought that one day we might have a memorial like that for the Lebanon war just terrified me."

RACHEL Ginsburg-Shahar's decision to join Four Mothers couldn't have been more spontaneous. While she has been involved in various political groups over the years, including peace organizations and the Labor Party, her commitment to increasing her activity grew after the Rabin assassination.

"It came as such a shock to me — that this man, the first person who gave me hope for a better future, could be murdered," she says.

At the same time, her sons were in the IDF. Both sons are still currently serving in the army; the elder, an officer, "is already a graduate of Lebanon" while the younger, after serving there initially, is currently doing an officer's training course and will return to



(From left): Linda Griver, Rachel Ginsburg-Shahar, Paula Miodownik and Linda Ben-Zvi: They sense public opinion has moved toward them. (Israel Sun)

Lebanon soon.

"I felt torn about becoming active at first," admits Ginsburg-Shahar, who was born in Kiryat Shmona. A retired school principal, she is now a private educational consultant.

"On the one hand, my sons are — how shall I put it — heavily brainwashed on the subject, particularly my younger son. I don't want to break his morale. I want him to wake up in the morning and believe in what he is doing, and I want to support him."

"On the other hand, I have to do what I feel is right. I believe there is no way to win this guerrilla war, and that it is wrong to defend our borders from another people's land."

But she says, it was actually her soldier son who eased her discomfort.

When Ginsburg-Shahar shared her feelings with him in the spring of 1997, he reassured her that it

was all right; he told her that they jokingly referred to their unit as the "Four Mothers unit," since so many of the soldiers' mothers felt the same way.

That was actually the first time she heard of the group.

"Then one day, I was driving home and saw a Four Mothers demonstration at the Beit Lid junction near my home. Without even thinking about it, I pulled over, parked my car, picked up a sign and joined them."

Ginsburg-Shahar rejects the argument that, by protesting, she is undermining the authority of generals who decide her son's fate. She denies she is harming his safety in any way.

"How can you sit there and do nothing when your son tells you that they feel they are sitting ducks in Lebanon — and when you know that they are sitting ducks."

"As for the generals, I'm sick and tired of the generals. I don't

believe in the generals. I don't believe that only they can make the right decisions. I believe that civilians have a right and responsibility to speak up."

Linda Ben-Zvi adds: "Somehow

'It is wrong to defend our borders from another people's land'

— Ginsburg-Shahar

being a general is supposed to supersede everything. Their opinions are supposed to count more than ours."

"But if you look at the people in the government defending

[Israel's] current position — Yitzhak Mordechai, Ephraim Sneh, Ori Orr, Ehud Barak — they were the very military men who set up this security zone in the first place. Of course they are going to defend it."

FOR Lynn Griver, a Gedera mother whose son is serving in a combat unit, participating in this week's Four Mothers demonstration in Jerusalem gave her a distinct sense of déjà vu.

"I felt like I was standing in exactly the same place I was 30 years ago, calling for the US to get out of Vietnam," she says.

In fact, she says, it was the slogan of the critics of the anti-war movement that influenced her decision to move from New York to Israel 22 years ago.

"They said about the US that we should love it or leave it. I thought about it, and I realized that, for me, Israel was home."

However, Griver stresses that while there are many parallels between the anti-Vietnam movement and the campaign to leave Lebanon, there are also differences.

The first clear difference is the geographical proximity of Lebanon to Israel. But another distinction, Griver says, is the attitude she and her fellow demonstrators have toward the military. While they disagree with the policy the army is currently pursuing, they still respect the institution.

"I worry about being perceived as attacking the army," she says. "I believe that the army is still the backbone of this country."

"In Vietnam, everyone was looking for ways not to serve, to get deferments. They were even cutting off fingers and toes. Everyone, particularly 'nice Jewish boys,' was looking for ways not to serve."

See MOTHERS, Page 17

The Four Mothers movement was launched in February 1997, following the tragic helicopter collision in which 73 soldiers heading for the security zone in Lebanon were killed.

The disaster spurred Miri Sela, a member of Kibbutz Mahanayim in northern Galilee, to write a letter to Knesset members calling for an immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

She joined, for a small demonstration, the mothers of three of her son's former schoolmates — all of whom, like Sela's son, were serving in Lebanon at the time — and her initiative soon developed into a full-fledged grassroots movement for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

The fact that all these women lived close to the northern border and had sons serving in the army struck an emotional chord in the nation, and media coverage of their movement and their first demonstrations brought a flood of support and new members from all over the country.

The group began to lobby actively in the Knesset to, in Sela's words, "mobilize the support among left and right wingers who don't agree with the policies over south Lebanon and the present situation there."

Over the past year and a half, the group has staged "mourning vigils" in front of the Defense Ministry following the deaths of soldiers in the security zone, met with 80 MKs and collected more than 25,000 signatures on a petition calling for a withdrawal.

In the spring, the group sent a delegation abroad to meet with politicians and businesspeople in Europe, in an attempt to garner support for the implementation of the government's decision. Last April to pull the IDF out of south Lebanon under UN Security

Council Resolution 425. It also held a rally in June marking the 16th anniversary of the start of the Lebanon War.

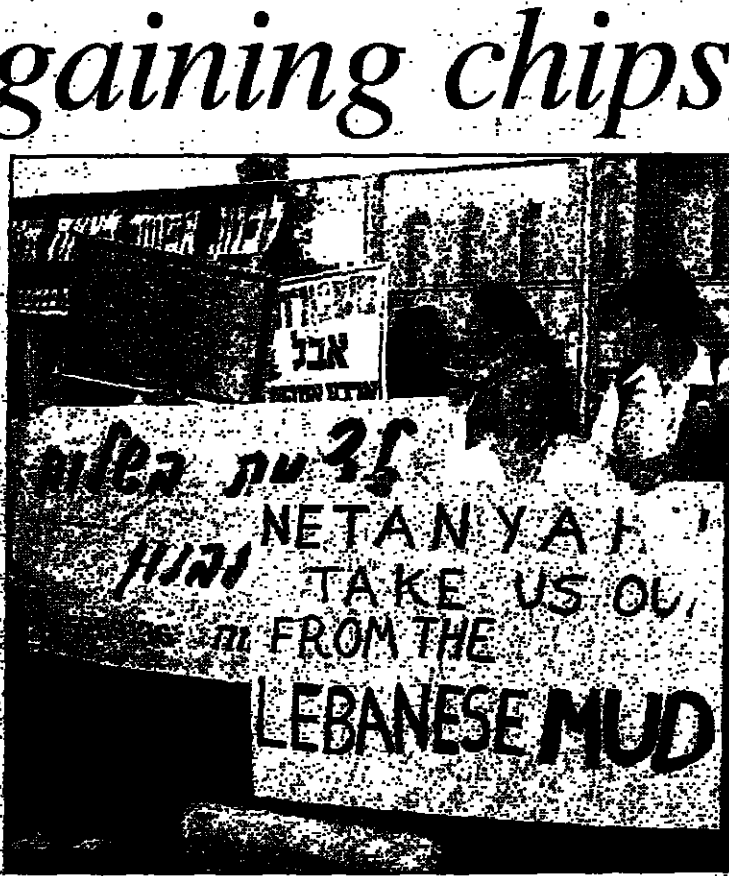
Six months after the group began its activities, Four Mothers gained their most outspoken ally in mainstream politics, when Labor MK Yossi Beilin launched The Movement for Leaving Lebanon Peacefully, a political movement to get the IDF out of Lebanon, even in the absence of a peace settlement with Syria and Lebanon.

Agreement or disagreement as to whether to withdraw from Lebanon has crossed party lines.

Opponents of withdrawal include Labor Party leader Ehud Barak and Laborites MK Ephraim Sneh and Ori Orr. All former military men, the three believe that if Israel quits Lebanon, Hizbullah will take over not only south Lebanon, but the entire state. A unilateral withdrawal will also make it much easier for Hizbullah to target Israeli towns, they say.

On the Likud side, both Deputy Defense Minister Michael Eitan and MK Gideon Ezra have come out for unilateral withdrawal, arguing that Israel could defend its citizens in the North more effectively and at a lower cost in lives on the Israeli side of the border. Even Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, architect of the Lebanon War, has entertained the idea of some form of staged withdrawal.

This week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed for the first time to meet with a Four Mothers delegation — following the public-relations debacle early



A Four Mothers demonstration opposite the Prime Minister's Office. (Isaac Harari)

in the week in which his bureau chief accused the group of "merely seeking headlines."

But Netanyahu coupled his agreement with a firm statement that pressure from the streets would not influence military or government security decisions.

HAS the Four Mothers group influenced the political and strategic debate over Lebanon in the year-and-a-half since its inception? Yaron Ezrahi, a political science professor at the Hebrew

University, believes it has.

"In my opinion, they have enormous impact. In what is really a mini-Vietnam situation, they are exerting mounting moral pressure on the government to provide compelling arguments, compelling security considerations, for maintaining the present situation."

"The government seems to fail consistently to provide sufficiently compelling arguments for preserving the current situation, because there are many holes in the government position — that it

is necessary from the point of view of Israel's defense."

"When there is moral pressure to present compelling arguments and a failure to provide those arguments, the public seems to increasingly feel that we have unsophisticated leadership of Israel's security, incapable of creative solutions to security problems."

"If the pressure of public opinion ends up changing the policy," Ezrahi concludes, "it will be a step forward for Israeli democracy."

The members of the group who have had a particularly strong impact, he notes, are the mothers who have lost sons in Lebanon.

"Traditionally, in Israel, the government assigns a specific role to women, especially women who have lost their husbands or sons on a battlefield," Ezrahi notes. "They should be mourners, and they should help the state celebrate the sacrifice of their dead children or husbands as heroes of a noble cause."

What these women can do, he says, is show the limits of such pigeonholing "by turning their children from [being] heroes who have died into the victims of unimaginative policy makers."

"They sit on the neurological center of an evocative symbolism of Israel and can empty the symbols of sacrifice and heroism, point fingers at government and show it is not doing its duty. These women have enormous power."

The phenomenon, Ezrahi says, has the potential for a major impact — not only on the security situation in the North, but on Israeli democracy as a whole.

If there is a change in the policy toward Lebanon in response to this grassroots pressure, "ironically these mothers and wives may end up playing no less a role in determining the outcome of this situation than their relatives who fought and died on the battlefield."

TO Shmuel Sandler, a political science professor at Bar-Ilan University, the Four Mothers group is further proof that "Wars

like this — protracted conflicts in which there are casualties day after day, when you really can't see how the war will be resolved or ended — just cannot be fought by democracies."

A democratic culture will ultimately undermine conflicts like that in Algeria, Vietnam and now Lebanon, says Sandler.

The government, he says, is stuck. On the one hand, officials won't play by Hizbullah's rules and launch guerrilla-style attacks of their own, like Unit 101 did against the Palestinian fedayeen in the early days of the state.

On the other hand, the government does not want to take massive military action that would endanger the peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan that are currently in place.

In the absence of the ability to take decisive action, there is little alternative to the current stalemate situation, "a position which is impossible to justify from the point of view of a mother."

"The government has to tell her that her son is in Lebanon basically so that we are going to be in a better bargaining position when it comes time to negotiate — it is not a life-or-death situation. Few mothers are willing to sacrifice their sons so their country can be in a better bargaining position."

Even while he understands the arguments for remaining in the security zone, Sandler himself admits: "I don't know how I would behave if my son was in Lebanon, because I know that he would not be there to save the country. This is not a war where you can talk about patriotism and national survival..."

"We are not going to win this war. It will end in either negotiations or withdrawal, but not in any kind of victory."

— A.A.S.



Beersheba City Councilman Yitzhak Saban, head of the local Shas list: 'I didn't really see too much... there was a lot of information going around by word of mouth.' (Jonathan Bloom)

Quiet protest or 'pogrom'?

Police last week had to rescue a group of Messianic Jews from their Beersheba compound, which had been surrounded by angry observant Jews. Larry Derfner investigates the latest in a series of religiously motivated attacks

"I was in the area and I saw a crowd of haredim and 'knitted kippa' religious Jews milling around this house, and I thought there was a *simha* going on. But as I got closer I heard yelling and shrieking. Some people were trying to climb over the wall around the house and get inside. Some were throwing rocks. They were in a frenzy. This wasn't a demonstration; this was a mob," said Natan Aridan, a history lecturer at Ben-Gurion University, describing the attack on Messianic Jews and Christians in Beersheba's Old City last Saturday. "I asked some people in the crowd what was going on, and they told me that Jewish children were being baptized inside the house. I asked them how they knew, and they said they had been told - they didn't say who told them - and that they had come out of their synagogues to 'rescue the children,'" Aridan said. He said he only found out afterwards that the victims had been Messianic Jews, adding "I have no sympathy for Messianic Jews, and

in fact, they frighten me."

A few days before the Beersheba incident, dozens of Habad youths in Kiryat Malachi reportedly threw stones at an American immigrant couple whom they accused of converting Jews to Christianity. On November 11, hundreds of haredim in Mea She'arim burned and vandalized the apartment of three Christian women from Switzerland whom they accused of likewise tempting Jewish youth into Christianity.

In each case, the victims denied that they were proselytizing Jews in any way. Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiye, a Bar-Ilan University expert on Israeli religious politics, said he doubted there was any connection between the attacks because the assailants - Eda Haredit loyalists in Jerusalem, Habadniks in Kiryat Malachi, and the primarily Shas sympathizers in Beersheba - were separate movements.

Aridan's description of what he called a "pogrom" matches the one given by Christians and Messianic

Jews who were there. But the version offered by police and local Shas leaders, including Beersheba Chief Rabbi Yehuda Deri (brother of MK Aryeh Deri), speaks not of rioters, but of peaceful, if fervent, demonstrators.

"There were a few dozen people praying, dancing and singing. They weren't threatening anybody, so nobody was arrested," said Dep.-Cmdr. Shalom Ben-Hamo, spokesman for the police's Southern District.

"There were over 300 people there, and I don't know of any acts of violence," said Ch.-Supt. Shlomo Abutbul, spokesman for the police's Negev Region.

A Messianic Jew who would identify herself only as Debbie said she, her husband and two small children were among the 30 people who'd been praying in the courtyard within the compound's walls, and who had locked themselves inside one of the two buildings when the crowd gathered.

"They were shouting and singing - 'Am Yisrael Hai', 'David Melech Yisrael.' It was so loud, so frightening.

"The police stood at the gate, holding back the crowd from coming in, but a few people got through. One of them saw a Korean couple and shouted at them, 'You Chinese, you goyim, you snake-eaters!'"

Another yelled, 'Dogs! We'll burn you and we'll burn your family!'" Debbie said.

The crowd showed up at about 10 a.m., and a little over two hours later police drove three vans near the gate to evacuate the people inside. Debbie said that out of fear of the crowd, she and her husband refused at first to go out, but finally agreed, and followed a policeman and policewoman five meters or so through the crowd to the van.

"People were spitting on me. They had murder in their eyes. Some of them were wailing, 'The poor children,'" Debbie said.

She held her younger son in her arms and her husband carried the older son.

"One man in the crowd, who seemed like he truly wanted to help us, offered to take my boy to the van so he wouldn't get hurt. But right away another man reached out and said: 'No, give the boy to me, he'll be safer with me, and I could tell from the look in his eyes that he did not want to help me. He wanted to take my son.'"

DEBBIE got out with only scratches to her nose. Olavi Syvanto, a Finnish-born Christian who founded the local congregation with two Messianic Jews in 1972, said he'd heard that one woman was punched in the nose on her way to the van.



Olavi Syvanto, who founded the local group of Messianic Jews denied any baptisms took place.

Syvanto said he arrived at the compound after the crowd had already blocked the entrance, so he had to stay outside. He had a camera and began taking pictures.

"A few people saw me and started to chase me and throw rocks at me. I got into the car without being hit, and drove out of there while they kept throwing rocks at my car," he said.

Debbie said her husband filed a criminal complaint with the police. Police spokesmen Ben-Hamo and Abutbul said no complaints had been filed.

City Councilman Yitzhak Saban, head of the local Shas list, was in the crowd.

He recalled: "When we got there, we saw a lot of children, and the Christians were trying to baptize them, but we stopped them."

Asked if he had actually seen attempts to baptize Jewish children, Saban replied, "I didn't really see too much, it was all going on behind the walls. I don't know how a baptism is done, but we heard they were going to do it. There was a lot of information going around - by word of mouth."

"There was no violence," Saban continued. "It was a very big success - I'd estimate there were 500 people there. I didn't know Beersheba's religious community would demonstrate such concern."

THE crowd came in response to a plea the day before by Deri, who had called for a "demonstration"

against the Christians and Messianic Jews in his Friday afternoon sermon on Shas's local radio station Kol Haneishama ("Voice of the Soul").

"There were no acts of violence," Deri said. "The crowd was enraged, but they showed great restraint. There were over 1,000 people there, and if this had been organized in advance, we would have drawn 10,000 people."

Deri explained that he initiated the protest because the leader of the local chapter of Yad L'Achim, a haredi anti-missionary and anti-cult organization, had told him the Christians and Messianic Jews were "bringing in two busloads of Jews to be baptized on Shabbat."

Deri said the group called themselves the "Witnesses of Love." "From what I've been told, the buses turned back because of our presence outside the house," Deri said.

"What buses?" countered Syvanto, saying there were no buses and no baptisms.

He said the group does not baptize any Jewish children, and does not publicize itself at all.

There are usually about 100 congregants who attend Saturday morning services at the compound, Syvanto said, including Israeli Messianic Jews and their children, along with Romanian guest workers and Christian foreign students at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

As for the most inflammatory charge made against the Christians

and Messianic Jews - that they baptize Jewish children - Don-Yehiye said that, as far as he knows, they do no such thing.

He added, however, that needy Jews drawn to the movement probably are offered aid such as free schooling for their children.

Although Syvanto said the Beersheba congregation does no outreach of any sort, Don-Yehiye said that with Messianic Jewish groups as a whole, "This may be their 'official' policy, but of course they give out information."

"Different groups have knocked on my own door a few times and given me pamphlets. They never offered me money, though. At any rate, none of this in any way can justify these attacks."

Israeli law allows Christians to distribute religious material to Jews, but not to minors and not with offers of money.

MESSIANIC Jews worship Jesus, believing he is the messiah that Jewish tradition speaks about. They are often referred to as "Jews for Jesus," though that is the name of only one group in the larger movement. Though they are Jews, they often worship with Christians, and many anti-cult and anti-missionary movements regard them as converts to Christianity.

There are Messianic Jewish congregations in virtually every major city in Israel.

See MESSIANIC, Page 17

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To Secondary School Principals:

"WE ARE BROTHERS" - A TIME TO LOVE

Memorial meeting on the 30th day after the tragic death of

JAN SHAFSHOVITCH

To mark the 30th day after the tragic death of the soldier Jan Shafshovitch in Ashkelon, a memorial meeting of youth will be held by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport - Culture and Youth Authority, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and representatives of student and youth councils.

The meeting will take place on December 7, 1998, at the Hechal Hatarbut in Kiryat Malachi, with the participation of members of the family, Minister of Education Yitzhak Levi, Minister of Immigrant Absorption Yuli Edelstein, Mayor of Kiryat Malachi Lior Katzav, IDF representatives, soldiers from his unit, local students, representatives of student councils, youth movements and Na'aleh from all over the country.

The memorial meeting will be broadcast live on Educational Television from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

School principals are requested to allow the pupils to watch the T.V. broadcast and to follow it with discussions - on attitudes to the "other," Israeli society's obligation to new immigrants and the contribution of youth to relationships among members of the population.

Schools have been sent the "We Are Brothers" booklet belonging to the "On the Agenda" series, which contains a number of group techniques that will be of use in the discussions.

For further information, contact the Culture and Youth Authority, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport; Tel. 02-560-3155, Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, Community Absorption Dept., 02-875-2762.

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مركز من الاصلين

Crimes and punishment

Israel's release of Palestinian criminals, rather than security prisoners, is threatening the Wye agreements. Ben Lynfield talks to the Palestinians who are increasingly taking to the streets in protest

The fate of some 3,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails has become a burning issue - whether it is expressed by angry youths marching through Ramallah, or by women in traditionally embroidered clothes hoisting gold-framed pictures of their husbands in east Jerusalem.

The issue is also the cause of growing violence against Israelis. After participating in protests demanding the release of security prisoners on Wednesday, Bir Zeit University students attacked IDF soldier Assaf Meara and Jerusalem resident Yehuda Oliva. Even the celebrations at the opening of Gaza International Airport last week were dampened by protesters berating Palestinian Authority officials over the continued imprisonment of relatives before they were pushed back by plainclothes security. In east Jerusalem last Saturday, 35 Palestinians were reported injured in clashes with police during a march on Salah a-Din Street to demand the release of prisoners. Nine policemen and five journalists were also reportedly hurt.

The PA is responding to - even riding - the wave of street protests with its own tough pronouncements. "We fought for 30 years and will fight forever to free the people and free the land," Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala) told demonstrators Tuesday.

Qurei's tone and the responses of other PA leaders appear to be spurred as much by fears for their own standing as frustration with Israel's policy.

Popular resentment proliferated two weeks ago when Israel released criminal prisoners - rather than political ones - to fulfill a required quota of 150 first-stage releases in accordance with last month's Wye agreement.

According to arrangements agreed at Wye, a total of 750 Palestinian prisoners are to be released within three months. "When we heard about the Wye agreement we all thought of father," said Sana Musa, whose father, Juma Musa, 59, is serving a life term plus 10 years for his role in the murder of Holon prostitute Sara Sharon, who was hacked to death in 1993. The killing, involving four people, was organized by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

"In the beginning we had some hope, but things did not change," said Musa, sitting in her father's house in the Shuafat refugee camp, which officially falls inside the Jerusalem municipal boundaries but looks more destitute and neglected than camps in the Gaza Strip.

Juma Musa, who suffers from diabetes and other ailments, is currently being treated in Ramle Prison hospital.

Israel's position is that since the PA negotiators agreed at Wye that no prisoners involved in killings or inflicting serious injuries would be released, the Palestinians have no basis for contesting the preponderance of criminal offenders in the release. In a cabinet decision Wednesday, the Israeli government warned the PA that it would halt further West Bank pullouts unless the PA accepts that prisoners "with blood on their hands" won't be freed and fulfills other conditions. The PA has rejected the demands.

STRICTLY speaking, Israel's

position appears to be consistent with the September 1995 interim agreements signed in Washington, which specify five categories of prisoners to be released. The categories include those charged with or convicted of non-security criminal offenses and those "charged with, or imprisoned for, security offenses not involving fatality or serious injury."

In its handling of the Wye talks the PA did not fulfill popular

ly those who participated in any way in terrorist operations causing death or injury.

Nor are any Hamas prisoners eligible for release, he said. "We are living up to our obligations but the Palestinians are violating theirs every day. Abu Ala's pronouncement [on Tuesday night about fighting for the land] was a gross violation," he said. "Every day there is a gross violation of the agreements against incite-



Palestinian youths burn tires in the Gaza Strip on Monday to demand that Israel release security prisoners. (AP)

expectations that "the negotiators would stand firm on the prisoners issue," says Bir Zeit University political scientist Ali Jerbawi. Now, Jerbawi says, the PA "is joining the general public in condemning Israelis for not being forthright in their promises. They are saying they were promised the release of the 750, saying they were cheated, blaming the Israelis. The general public is also blaming the Israelis."

Caught in the middle between public anger and Israel's refusal to budge, the PA leaders are taking pains to show the public their tenacity in pressing for releases. "It is impossible for us as a leadership to accept continuation of the negotiations while our prisoners are in jail," said top Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas in remarks quoted Tuesday in the official *al-Hayat al-Jadida* newspaper.

Hassan Asfour, another senior negotiator, was equally forceful about the issue during a phone interview Wednesday. "If they don't implement their obligations, there won't be any implementation of Wye," he said.

David Bar-Ilan, a senior aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, ruled out a change in the criteria for releases. "We have an aversion to murderers. Should I wish on those who inquire why the terrorists in jail for murder are not released, that they should lose a member of their families to such killers?"

Consistent with Wye, he said, Israel will not release prisoners "with blood on their hands, name-

ment." Moreover, in order to meet the requirement of 750 releases, a large number of criminal prisoners must be included. Bar-Ilan said. "The car thieves also steal cars on orders from the PA. They are not exactly plain criminals," he added.

BUT BY adhering to this position, Israel is harming the PA's credibility, and thus the peace process itself, says Munther Dajani, director of the Palestinian Center for Regional Studies, an Al-Bireh think-tank founded as an outgrowth of the Oslo agreement. "The whole nation is dismayed. The Palestinian National Authority is in trouble in the camps, in Gaza and the West Bank because you are talking about those who fought for the liberation of the country."

In Bethlehem's Aida refugee camp, Daoud Azrak, whose son, Khaled, is serving a life sentence in Ashkelon Prison, said PA officials have little understanding of the suffering of prisoners' families.

"I've never seen one of these people from the Authority visiting their children in prison," he said.

"Their sons are living a higher life studying in America or Europe. For them the prisoner issue is not important," he continued. "When we want to go and visit the prison, we wake up at four in the morning and take the buses. They are sleeping in until 10 a.m. They don't know the suffering the Palestinians are suffer-



A Palestinian woman, demonstrating in Hebron last week, cries out for her son who is serving a life sentence in an Israeli jail. (AP)

attack and plans were "operations of resistance against the occupation." If they targeted civilians, he said, that was appropriate because "the Israelis killed civilians all the time. During the intifada 12 civilians were killed here," he said, referring to the fatality toll in the camp between 1987 and 1993.

Azrak said prisoners in Ashkelon Prison are planning to start a hunger strike next week to muster pressure for releases. "Tomorrow I'm going to visit Khaled," he says. "People die during the strikes, so maybe it will be the last time I see my son."

In nearby Beit Jala, Mahmoud Zarayneh, the father of jailed Hamas members Bilal and Abed Zarayneh, also describes each son as a *munadil*. He offers no information on what they were accused of, but a neighborhood resident termed them "active members" of the Islamic movement. Bilal was sentenced to seven years in 1993 and Abed is serving an eight-year term.

"Who gave those in prison the orders to throw stones? The PA and the PLO. The prisoners are the soldiers of the people that Israel is negotiating with," Zarayneh said.

"If there is peace, they must come home. Why should my sons who were in the war be in prison?" he asked. He predicted they would not return to their former activities upon release, but rather "get married and lead regular lives."

IN TERMS of the Palestinian public, and in the official PA view, all 3,000 security prisoners, regardless of the nature of their actions, are *munadilin*.

The reasoning is that, until the 1993 Oslo Accord they were soldiers in a just war, a war of self-defense against an enemy occupying Palestinian land.

Regarding *munadilin* who targeted places like Mahaneh Yehuda, Asfour says: "All of them were fighters against occupation. It was war, not making love."

Israel is in no position to disqualify prisoners from release on moral grounds, according to Jerbawi. "How could [Ariel] Sharon tell us Israel can't release prisoners because their hands are stained with Jewish blood when he himself killed so many Palestinians?"

Fahdi Mohammed Ali, a building contractor from Shuafat camp,

said he opposes the attacks against civilians, but urges understanding for the motives of those who combat Israel.

"When Palestinians go fight or do something against the occupation, they do it because they believe it's their land. The feeling is that someone kicks you out of your house, leaves you in the street and calls you a terrorist."

"It isn't fair when these people have fought for me and I'm free and they're still in prison," he said. "I have to do something for them."

THE PA's vulnerability on the issue has not escaped the notice of those with ties to the Israeli security establishment. Likud MK Gideon Ezra, former deputy head of the General Security Services, is calling on Israel to boost the PA's position and lessen tensions in the self-rule areas by adjusting the criteria for release.

Ezra said that unless a change is made, the next release will also be made up of criminals and car thieves. "The Palestinians will take this very badly," he said. "The

demonstrations will increase. The PA does not have a good response to its own public opinion."

"It could cause problems, there may be pressure on the Authority to stop the negotiations," he added.

Ezra is proposing that a category be created for people serving life sentences whose terms began before 1982. "I'm not saying free them, but we should consider doing so," he said.

Jerbawi, meanwhile, warns of a major escalation stemming from the prisoner issue, settlement activity and other grievances. If a large number of prisoners go on hunger strike, "the campaign will also be on the streets," he said. "There will be demonstrations and there will be different activities. The demonstrations will be against the Israelis."

"Maybe the Palestinians are weak now, but the Palestinians are not stupid," Jerbawi said. "The Palestinian street will explode and Netanyahu will have, I won't say a new intifada, but a renewal of violence."

ing. They are living in another world."

In Dajani's view, however, Israel, not the PA, is at fault.

"I don't know why the Israelis aren't looking at us and at Palestinian society," he said. "This [issue] is the core of the peace process. There is national consensus on this. What gives the PA credibility on the national level is to bring the boys who fought for their country home."

"It's not for the PA to do anything - the ball now is in the court of the Israelis," he added.

SITTING in his living room, Azrak, 64, speaks of Khaled as a *munadil*, a struggler against Israeli occupation, a title of esteem widely accorded to the security prisoners.

Khaled Azrak, 32, was convicted five years ago in Ramallah Military Court and sentenced to life imprisonment for a May 1990 bomb attack in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market that killed one and wounded 15. He was also convicted of planning another attack in the market - his pregnant wife, Amal, was to plant the device. It exploded prematurely and killed her.

For Daoud Azrak, whose strong words don't quite mesh with his casual jalabiya and sandals, the

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How the diplomats won the war

Israel's diplomats gathered in Jerusalem this week to hear how they and their colleagues helped turn Israel from a pariah state to a respected member of the family of nations. **Abraham Rabinovich reports**

Conjure up the famous picture of Ariel Sharon with the broad white bandage around his forehead as he prepared his daring thrust across the Suez Canal in the Yom Kippur War. Place a top hat and cutaway tuxedo on that battle-ready, exuberant figure and you have a virtual snapshot of Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon — keynote speaker at a conference in Jerusalem marking 50 years of Israeli diplomacy.

Sharon's vigor was infused this time into a speech that dwelt not just on historic Jewish rights and grievances towards the Arabs, favorite themes of the past, but on a readiness to compromise for peace.

In his acknowledgment of the pain of such compromise and in his detailed proposal of steps towards normalization with the Arabs, including education of youth towards coexistence, he sounded like someone who had internalized the idea of peace — even if his terms remained tough — and not like a politician waving peace as a slogan.

It was not just Sharon's diplomat-warrior appearance that gave the conference its drumbeat quality. It was even more the gathering of hundreds of present and former Foreign Ministry personnel to celebrate what they and their colleagues had accomplished over the last 50 years, each toiling in his far-off corner of the world. During two days of concentrated reviews, region by region, there emerged a sense that the Israeli diplomats, for all their isolation and cocktail-party maneuverings, were front-line soldiers in the national cause no less than the men who had crossed the canal.

Like veterans returning from scattered jumps behind enemy lines, they gathered in solemn assembly to hear how they had won the war. With undramatic incremental successes and occasional breakthroughs, the diplomats helped turn Israel from a pariah state shunned by the Soviet bloc, the Moslem world and much of the Third World to a state with almost universal recognition and special standing.

It all began a few hours after the declaration of Israel's statehood when Israel's first foreign minister, Moshe Sharett, set up shop in a two-room office on Tel Aviv's seafloor accompanied by Gideon Rafael and a secretary. "My job was to answer the telephone, serve tea and find out the capitals of countries to which we addressed our message of independence," Rafael told the conference.

Recognition of the new state came the very next day — first by Egyptian warplanes bombing Tel Aviv and then by diplomatic recognition from Washington and Moscow.



Cold-shouldered by much of the world in its early years, Israel sought warmth in Africa: President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi tours the continent.

The first major diplomatic crossroad for Israel came during the Korean War, said Rafael, who would become director-general of the ministry. "At the beginning of the state we had the support of both the US and the Soviet Union and we didn't want to take sides. But the Korean War was a direct clash between the blocs and we had to choose. By this time we knew we had to line up with the West."

However, Israel still had strong interests in the East, uppermost among them the Jews of the Soviet Union. "The fact that a million Jews from the Soviet Union are now in Israel is due in no small measure to the Foreign Ministry because we saw it a central issue," said Meir Rosenne, former ambassador to the UN. "Never have so many owed so much to so few."

ISRAEL'S first ambassador to Moscow after relations were resumed in 1991, Arieh Levin, said that Israel had succeeded in forcing Moscow to soften its stand on Jewish emigration during the years of non-recognition by mobilizing effective international pressure. "Soviet leaders were obliged to make significant concessions," he said.

More than two decades of severed relations after the Six Day War had distorted Moscow's view of Israel, noted Levin. The first Soviet officials to visit when contact was resumed were astonished at the country's modernity. This was immediately linked to "mystic beliefs about Jewish money," said Levin, and translated into requests for financial assistance.

Levin revealed that when the late finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i called on Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, the latter said that his country was in dire need of \$60 billion. Could Israel help out with \$10 billion? A stunned Moda'i did not explicitly say no, which led to the embassy in Moscow subse-

quently receiving urgent inquiries about the money which, needless to say, was not forthcoming.

Cold-shouldered by much of the world in its early years, Israel sought warmth in Africa where it established numerous embassies and engaged in widespread assistance programs. "We wanted to break the [diplomatic] siege around us," said Ambassador Arieh Oded, "but there were without doubt also humanitarian and moral considerations." After the Yom Kippur War and the flaunting of the Arab oil weapon, almost all of Africa would

sever relations as well.

The siege began to crumble only a decade ago as the Cold War came to an end, the Soviet empire fell apart, Israel entered into a peace process with the Arabs at Madrid and the Gulf War signaled new international alignments.

In the Far East things began to change after 1992, noted Prof. Yitzhak Shichor of Hebrew University. Until then, Israel had relations only with small Asian countries, apart from Japan. Patient work by Israeli diplomats

... a patience not usually associated



Patient work by Israeli diplomats paved the way for relations with China: Prime minister Yitzhak Rabin signs an agreement with China's Minister of Science and Technology Lee Xuan She in 1993. (Isaac Harari)

with Israel, noted Shichor — laid the groundwork for ties with China. Following that, the rest of Asia quickly followed. "China gave relations with Israel legitimization," said Shichor.

APART from the US, Western Europe was Israel's most important foreign link throughout the past 50 years, but it was a relationship fraught with an ambivalence woven of historical memories and shifting interests, noted Colette Avital, the ministry's deputy director-general for European affairs.

Thus, France changed from Israel's close friend and principal arms supplier before the Six Day War to a sourpuss afterwards. Britain, which had given official license in 1917 to the notion of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, would soon after attempt to retreat from any near-term realization of the Balfour Declaration. Lord Owen, the former British foreign minister who addressed

the conference, noted that the declaration, issued at the height of the First World War, was aimed at winning the support of Jews in America, which Britain hoped would enter the war, and of the Jews in Russia, which Britain hoped would remain in the war.

The greatest ambivalence, of course, lay in Israel's relations with Germany.

Avital noted that the bilateral relations between Israel and the nations of Western Europe have increasingly given way to relations with the European Union, which consists today of 15 nations with a population of 360 million. By 2010 this will have grown to 25 nations and a population of 600 million.

Israeli diplomacy displayed foresight in tying into the developing Western European community when it began to take shape with the Treaty of Rome in 1958.

Israel's present associate status with the European Union, achieved in 1995, opens highly significant doors to Israel, Avital noted — economically, technologically and politically. Israel's trade with Europe in 1997, \$21 billion, constituted 40 percent of Israel's total foreign trade.

"There is no doubt that the US is Israel's major ally but more and more Israelis are realizing that the country has to rest its policies on two legs, not just one," said Avital.

ISRAEL'S most sensitive foreign relations are those with its immediate neighbors, its partners and potential partners in the peace process. Prof. Shimon Shamir, a former ambassador to both Egypt and Jordan, noted that the Arab world had to undergo a process of decolonization and nationalism before it could begin to come to terms with Israel.

"Until they had done that, peace was impossible," he said. The change came first with Egypt in the 1970s. "From that point," said Shamir, "the dispute was not over Israel's existence but over the price of peace. Now it is the Arabs who say 'We want peace. Why don't you?'"

Several participants urged compromise in resolving disputes with the Arabs, an approach echoed by Sharon himself. "The Israeli government has decided to advance down the path of peace," he said. "I myself have also decided to make every effort to reach peace with the

Palestinians and with all Arab states that so desire." Sharon urged regional cooperation, particularly in water desalination, as a way of stabilizing the peace process.

Former foreign minister Abba Eban, in a rare public address, cautioned that "We do not stand at the edge of a new golden age." The end of the Cold War, he noted, had been widely expected to herald utopia. But as Rwanda, Bosnia, Russia and numerous other examples testify, utopia didn't arrive. Why? "Because the Cold War was never the only reason for international tensions."

As for Israel, Eban quoted philosopher Martin Buber, who said "anxiety is the essence of the Jewish condition." While surveying the future with anxiety, however, Israel did so from a position of inner strength, said Eban, who termed Israel "a success story."

The extent of that success, measured by Israel's relations with the rest of the world, was cited by Yigal Biran, senior deputy director-general of the foreign ministry. Israel today has relations with 163 nations and it has 106 missions, including consulates and interest offices — far more than other nations of Israel's size maintain. The three-person team that labored in Sharret's seafloor office that first day 50 years ago has grown, but not enormously. With a blushing modest budget of NIS 1 billion, the ministry today numbers 1,020 employees of whom 420 serve abroad.

THE diplomat-warrior analogy offered at the conference at Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus has proven more than rhetoric over the years, with 11 members of Israel's foreign service dying in the ruins of the embassy in Buenos Aires, as well as a letter bomb in London, and terrorists on the streets of Turkey and elsewhere. Ambassador Shlomo Argov still lies hospitalized after being shot down by a Palestinian gunman in 1982 on a London street. Visitors to Israeli missions abroad can sense the security concerns that go hand in hand with a foreign posting, particularly in the years when Israel was more embattled than it is today.

For two days this week, Israel's diplomatic community permitted itself to come in from the cold and warm itself with recollections of its achievements in establishing Israel's place in the family of nations over an eventful half-century.



Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon catches a glimpse of himself this week at an exhibit marking 50 years of Israeli diplomacy. (Brian Hendler)

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On page 9 of the Ba'kehila Supplement, the phone numbers in the **Candlelighting at Yehiam Castle** advertisement should be **04-985-6057/8, 053-75005**

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, December 4

Jerusalem: Superpharm, Gilo Commercial Center, 676-1873; Baisam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shua'fat, Shua'fat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Hero's Gate, 828-2058.
Tel Aviv: Jabotinsky, 125 Ben Gvirol, 546-2040; Pharmad, 41 Yirmeyahu, 544-2050. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Merkaz Golan, 199 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 774-5762.
Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 828-2484.
Haifa: Super Pharm, Hananivim Tower, 051-582021; New Pharm, 40 Harita, 052-331013; Habanulim, 5 Habanulim, 851-3005; Hadas, 53 Horev, 851-3005.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Blatik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Ma'at, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 5

Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 628-3898; (evening) Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A. 3 Aulon, 670-5682; (day and evening) Baisam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shua'fat, Shua'fat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Hero's Gate, 828-2058. Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-6461; Lev Yafit, 80 Sd. Yehushalayim, Jaffa, 682-1607.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Bar-Ilan, 29 Bar-Ilan, Ra'anana, 744-3579; (evening) Doron, 6 Gola, Ra'anana, 774-6084.
Netanya: Hadrinim mall, 2 Hakadar, Industrial Zone, 862-8436.
Haifa: Super Pharm (Lev Hamitrat), 53 Hadrinim, 051-582021; New Pharm, 40 Harita, 052-331013.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Blatik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Ma'at, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, December 6

Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 628-3898; (evening) Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A. 3 Aulon, 670-5682; (day and evening) Baisam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shua'fat, Shua'fat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Hero's Gate, 828-2058. Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-6461; Lev Yafit, 80 Sd. Yehushalayim, Jaffa, 682-1607.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Bar-Ilan, 29 Bar-Ilan, Ra'anana, 744-3579; (evening) Doron, 6 Gola, Ra'anana, 774-6084.
Netanya: Hadrinim mall, 2 Hakadar, Industrial Zone, 862-8436.
Haifa: Super Pharm (Lev Hamitrat), 53 Hadrinim, 051-582021; New Pharm, 40 Harita, 052-331013.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Blatik, 878-7818.
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Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Ma'at, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Friday, December 4

Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (internal, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Karem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatr. Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.
Saturday, December 5
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Karem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ENT); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology).
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ART GUIDE

HAIFA

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ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

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ART GUIDE

TEL AVIV

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Two-division cricket format approved in radical move

LONDON (AP) — In the most radical change in the 109-year history of English county cricket, the 18 teams agreed yesterday to introduce a two-division championship starting in 2000.

The proposal, rejected last year, was approved this time by the First Class Forum with 15 votes in favor, two against and two abstentions.

Under the plan, there will be two divisions of nine teams each, with a soccer-

style promotion and relegation system. The top nine teams in next year's championship will play in the top tier division in 2000, with the remainder in the lower tier.

Counties will play the other eight teams in their divisions on a home and away basis in 16 four-day matches, with three promoted and three relegated.

It's the first major change in the structure of county cricket since the competi-

tion began in 1890.

The move is designed to improve the quality of first-class cricket and make England more competitive on an international level.

"This is an historic day for cricket in England and Wales," said Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the England Cricket Board. "We can raise the profile of the game and improve the quality of the players by making this change and

I'm confident that Team England will benefit from the introduction of a harder edged competition."

The vote comes just three days after England's seven-wicket defeat to Australia in the second Test of the Ashes series. The result offered further proof that England is no longer a world power in the sport it invented and is falling further behind the top nations.

"There is a universal belief in the game

that we need to narrow the gap in standard between the four-day domestic game and Test match cricket," ECB chief executive Tim Lamb said.

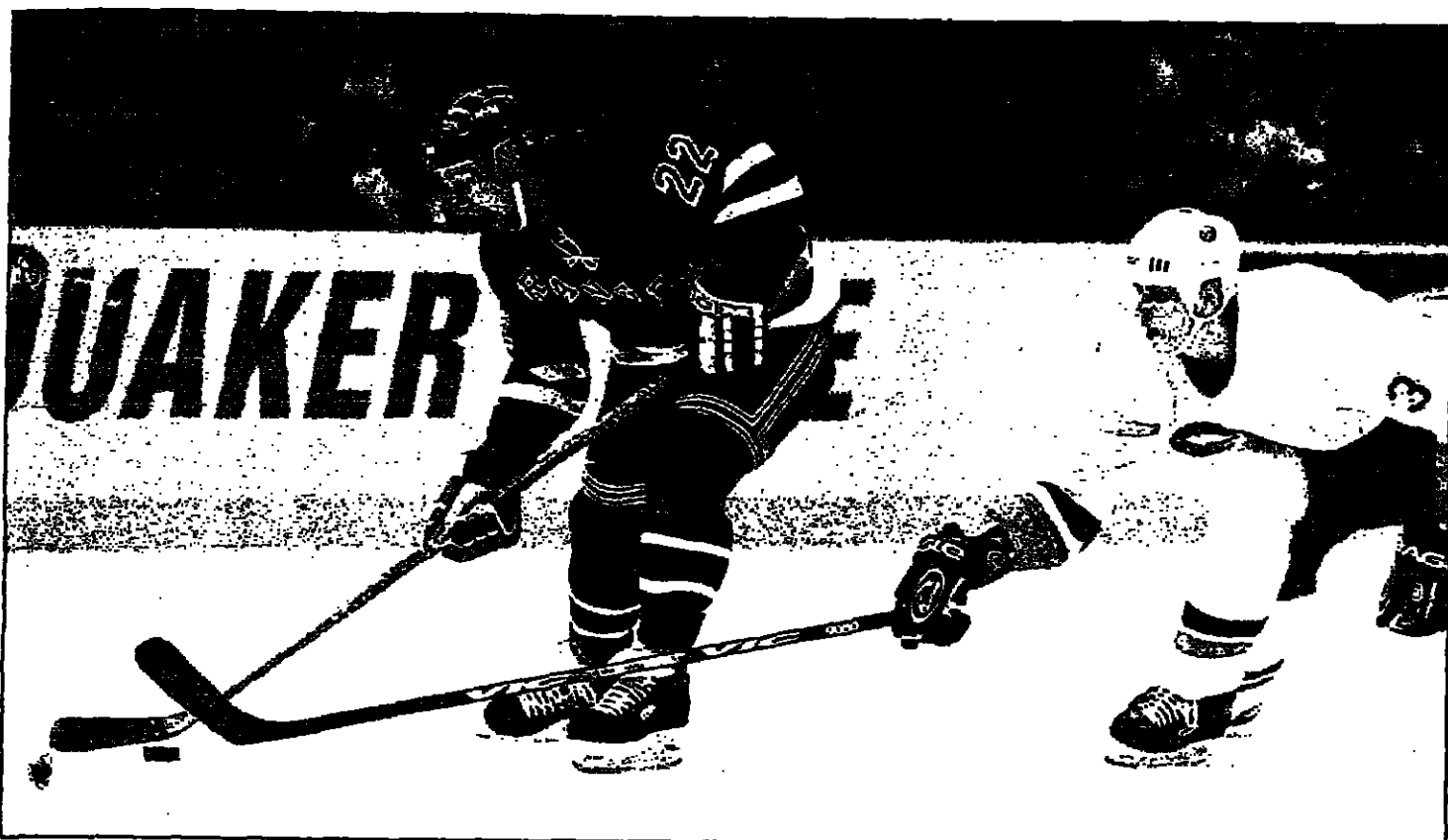
"By introducing a two-division format and continuing with the ECB's range of coaching and development initiatives, we will start to effectively close that gap."

"I am sure that greater competitiveness will also raise the level of media and

public interest and encourage more spectators to come to county championship matches."

The ECB said all teams will be treated equally in terms of financial distribution, voting rights and registration rules.

That means teams in the lower division will not lose out on vital cash and there will be no free-for-all in the movement of players to the more attractive sides.



LEFT BEHIND — Islanders defenseman Zdeno Chara (r) can't keep up with Rangers winger Mike Knuble as he breaks away to score the first goal in the Rangers 3-2 win on Wednesday.

Rangers win battle of New York

UNION-DALE (AP) — Mike Richter stopped 25 shots as the New York Rangers beat the New York Islanders 3-2 or their third straight victory Wednesday.

Mike Knuble, Petr Nedved and Wayne Gretzky scored for the Rangers, who snapped a three-game losing streak at Nassau Coliseum since a 5-2 victory on Feb. 8, 1997. The Rangers have beaten the Islanders three straight games overall.

The Rangers are currently on a 4-1-2 streak, and have held opponents to one or two goals in five of those seven games.

Robert Reichel had both goals for the Islanders, who have lost three straight games and six of their last eight.

Sabres 2, Panthers 1

Dixon Ward scored his team-leading 10th goal and Dominik Hasek continued his mastery at home with 27 saves as Buffalo won at home.

Ward, who leads the NHL in

shooting percentage, scored the game-winner at 12:01 of the second period when he scored on a rebound of his own shot to beat Florida goaltender Kirk McLean.

Hurricanes 4, Canadiens 1

Ray Sheppard and Keith Primeau scored 3½ minutes apart and host Carolina Hurricanes won its fourth straight by defeating slumping Montreal.

Sheppard's game-winner came with 4:19 left in the second period, while Primeau scored his team-leading 12th goal 1:09 into the third period just seconds after Carolina goaltender Trevor Kidd had made several key saves.

Maple Leafs 3, Kings 1

Sergei Berezin scored twice to lead Toronto to its seventh straight home victory.

Berezin, with his first goal in 12 games, deflected Sylvain Cote's point shot with 9:52 left in the third for the game winner — his second power-play goal of the night.

Dimitri Yushkevich scored another power-play goal 2:20 later to give the Maple Leafs three goals with the man advantage for the first time this season.

Curtis Joseph was solid in goal, making 27 saves. Vladimir Tsyplakov was the only King to beat him.

Oilers 4, Coyotes 3

Mikhail Shtalenkov made 45 saves as host Edmonton ended the Coyotes' 14-game unbeaten streak.

Stars 3, Sharks 0

Ed Belfour stopped 26 shots for his second straight shutout, becoming the leader among active goalies with 42 career shutouts, as Dallas won on the road.

Avalanche 4, Red Wings 2

Rookie Chris Drury broke a tie game early in the third period and host Colorado ended the Red Wings' winning streak at five.

Rene Corbet added a wrap-around goal with 5:22 left.

as the Avalanche also handed Detroit goaltender Norm Maracle his first loss in eight career starts (6-1-1).

Maracle, who had won four straight in place of injured Chris Osgood, finished with 26 saves.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	11	7	1	29	58	49
Pittsburgh	11	7	1	26	62	48
Pittsburgh	10	6	4	26	67	59
N.Y. Rangers	8	9	7	23	64	65
N.Y. Islanders	10	14	0	20	61	67

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	13	9	0	26	75	54
St. Louis	9	6	5	23	57	47
Kansas City	9	13	1	19	54	71
Chicago	6	14	3	15	48	82

Northwest Division

Colorado	9	11	2	20	57
Vancouver	9	13	2	20	67
Calgary	8	13	2	18	63
Pacific Division					
Phoenix	14	3	2	30	56
Dallas	13	4	3	29	56
Anaheim	8	10	5	21	54
Los Angeles	6	15	3	15	51
San Jose	5	12	5	15	49

Pacific Division

Anaheim	8	10	5	21	54
Los Angeles	6	15	3	15	51
San Jose	5	12	5	15	49

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hapoel Haifa	10	8	2	0	14	1	26
Hapoel Tel Aviv	10	7	1	2	22	7	22
Maccabi Haifa	10	5	3	2	21	8	18
Betar Jerusalem	10	5	2	3	25	14	17
Hapoel Jerusalem	10	5	2	3	17	12	17
Hapoel Tel Aviv	10	5	2	3	11	9	17
Zefirum Holon	10	4	3	3	14	7	15
Maccabi Tel Aviv	10	4	3	3	15	15	15
Hapoel Ramat Gan	10	4	2	4	13	17	14
Maccabi Tel Aviv	10	3	4	3	16	13	13
Ironi Ashdod	10	2	5	3	13	16	11
Ironi Rishon LeZion	10	2	4	4	12	18	10
Maccabi Herzliya	10	3	1	6	10	16	10
Bnei Yehuda	10	2	3	5	13	18	9
Hapoel Be'er Sheva	10	1	2	7	6	26	5
Maccabi Jaffa	10	0	1	9	4	28	1

Springboks ready for record win

LONDON (Reuters) — South Africa coach Nick Mallett believes his team can achieve rugby union immortality against England at Twickenham tomorrow.

The Springboks need to beat the English in a one-off international to break New Zealand's world record of 17 consecutive test victories set nearly three decades ago.

Mallett's team have achieved the feat in two years while the All Blacks produced five years of consistent form between 1965 and 1969 when the international fixture list was less crowded.

But the South African coach believes there is no chance of any other team repeating the feat in the future because the professional game has become too competitive.

"I personally don't think it will happen again. The northern hemisphere is getting better all the time. No one single team is head and shoulders above the rest,"

Mallett said.

He also acknowledges that the world champions have needed some luck on the way to the record which they equaled with their 17th win in a row against Ireland in Dublin last weekend.

It is an astonishing achievement given that South African rugby was in the doldrums in the middle of last year when they suffered a home series defeat by the British Lions.

But the Springboks have moved closer to a special place in rugby union history by beating all the major powers in the world game — Australia, New Zealand and Europe's best — England and France.

One of the major strengths of the present Springbok team is that they never give up on a game. They are rugby's equivalent of the great German soccer teams of the past who would often stage spectacular comebacks to win games.

Hapoel Haifa look to stop Betar's three-peat

By ORI LEWIS

Leaders Hapoel Haifa will try to thwart Betar Jerusalem's goal of a three-peat tomorrow as they host Betar at Kiryat Eliezer (Channel 2 at 17:50).

Betar are in fourth place, but are nine points off the pace, and the financial turmoil in which the Jerusalem club finds itself will certainly make things difficult.

Hapoel, on the other hand, will sport their new acquisition from Hansa Rostock, Alexander Jovic, for the first time. The Haifa goal-scoring machine certainly looks to be in fine fettle and it is yet to be seen if Jovic will steal the limelight from Croatian midfielder Giovanni Rosso, who has been largely responsible for the success of coach Eli Gutman's side this season.

The other big game of the 11th round pits Hapoel Tel Aviv against Maccabi Haifa at Bloomfield. Haifa had the chance to take over second spot in the standings last week, but could manage only a lackluster goalless draw against Ironi Ashdod, which left them one point behind Hapoel Petah Tikva.

Former soap actor seeks Everton dream

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) — Former television soap star Bill Kenwright has begun his bid to raise the £48 million he believes will make his childhood dream come true.

The new Everton deputy chairman is planning to raise enough cash to buy the 68 per cent shareholding in the club held by former chairman Peter Johnson, who resigned.

Kenwright, once a leading actor in the long-running *Coronation Street* and now a theater impresario, tried to buy the club four years ago with a £5m bid. He was beaten to the chairman's seat by Johnson's £20m offer.

With Johnson now willing to sell his shares, Kenwright is keen to complete his dream of owning the club he loves and he has already set up talks with financial backers in a bid to raise money.

"My previous bid included everything I owned, including my house. I realize now it may take 10 times that figure."

Clemens demands to be traded

NEW YORK (AP) — As if the New York Yankees aren't already good enough, now there's a chance the World Series champions could be adding Roger Clemens.

The five-time Cy Young Award winner shook up baseball's frenzied marketplace Wednesday, telling the Toronto Blue Jays to trade him to a contender or closer to home.

"Who wouldn't have an interest in Clemens?" Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Meanwhile, Henry Rodriguez returned to the Chicago Cubs for an \$8.9 million, two-year deal.

Even Carlos Hernandez struck it rich. After just one season as a starter, the catcher worked out a \$6.5m, three-year contract to stay with the San Diego Padres.

When Clemens signed with the Blue Jays in December 1996, team president Paul Beeston said if Clemens didn't think Toronto would contend, the Blue Jays would deal him.

The Yankees, Astros and Rangers are considered the top contenders to land the 36-year-old right-hander, 20-6 with a 2.65 ERA and 271 strikeouts in 234 2/3 innings last season.

Duke holds off Michigan State

NCAA BASKETBALL

CHICAGO (AP) — Trajan Langdon's hot first-half shooting jump-started the Blue Devils, who then held on for a 73-67 victory over Michigan State Wednesday night in the Great Eight.

The Blue Devils scored the first 13 points of the game and took a 24-7 lead behind Langdon's 12 points. As many NBA scouts and coaches watched from the seats of the United Center, Langdon finished the half with 17 points on 6-of-6 shooting, including four 3-pointers.

Langdon cooled off in the second half as good defense by Morris Peterson limited him to just six more points and 1-of-6 shooting.

But the Blue Devils, bouncing back from a loss to Cincinnati in Alaska that knocked them from No. 1 to No. 4, didn't collapse against the physical play of the Spartans and successfully withstood a late rally.

Rhode Island 70

No. 21 Utah 63

In Wednesday's earlier game at the Big Eight, Antonio Reynolds-Dean scored 22 points and Lamar Odom added 15 as Rhode Island upset Utah.

Reynolds-Dean made 10 of 16 shots and hurt Utah when it tried to cut off the 6-foot-10 Odom on his drives to the basket. Preston Murphy hit two big 3-pointers for the Rams (4-3).

Andre Miller tied a career high with 28 points and had a Great Eight-record six steals for the Utes (3-3).

No. 17 New Mexico 97

Arkansas-Pine Bluff 72

Freshman John Robinson III scored 25 points and Damon Walker added 23 as New Mexico



Utes' Andre Miller. (Reuters)

beat the winless visitors.

The Lobos (5-0) played without leading scorer Lamont Long, who was sidelined by a bad back.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff (0-5), with no one in the lineup bigger than 6-foot-7, was led by Terrance Duncan with 15 points.

No. 18 UCLA 109

Delaware St. 67

UCLA guard Baron Davis, playing his first game in eight months after recovering from knee

surgery, had nine points and four assists in 16 minutes.

Despite a bulky brace on his knee, Davis showed no difficulty running or moving laterally. He missed UCLA's first four games while rehabilitating from surgery on the left knee he injured in last season's NCAA tournament.

No. 23 Xavier 64

No. 22 Miami, Ohio 56

Gary Lumpkin hit a clutch 3-pointer and James Posey clamped down on Wally Szczerbiak in the second half.

Host Xavier (5-2) overcame a 10-point deficit in the second half with a balanced attack and gritty defense against Szczerbiak, who scored 24 points, but missed two of three shots and was called for an intentional foul as Miami (4-1) faded in the final three minutes.

No. 25 St. John's 70

Hofstra 49

Freshman Erick Barkley scored a season-high 25 points, including five 3-pointers, for St. John's.

Ron Artest added 15 points for the Red Storm (5-2), who are off to their best start since opening the 1994-95 season 7-0.

College Basketball Top 25

- How the top 25 teams in the AP's poll fared Wednesday
1. Connecticut (5-0) did not play.
 2. Maryland (7-0) did not play.
 3. North Carolina (7-0) did not play.
 4. Duke (6-1) beat No. 9 Michigan State at Chicago, 70-61.
 5. Stanford (4-1) did not play.
 6. Cincinnati (4-0) did not play.
 7. Kansas (4-1) did not play.
 8. Kentucky (6-1) did not play.
 9. Michigan State (4-2) lost to No. 4 Duke at Chicago, 70-61.
 10. Tennessee (2-2) did not play.
 11. Oklahoma State (4-1) did not play.
 12. Syracuse (5-0) did not play.
 13. Arizona (2-0) did not play.
 14. Purdue (6-1) did not play.
 15. Washington (4-1) did not play.
 16. Indiana (7-1) did not play.
 17. New Mexico (5-0) beat Arkansas-Pine Bluff, 97-72.
 18. UCLA (9-0) beat Delaware State, 109-67.
 19. Arkansas (5-1) did not play.
 20. Pittsburgh (5-1) did not play.
 21. Utah (2-3) lost to Rhode Island at Chicago, 70-63.
 22. Miami, Ohio (4-1) lost to No. 23 Xavier, 64-56.
 23. Xavier (5-2) beat No. 22 Miami, Ohio, 64-56.
 24. Clemson (15-1) did not play.
 25. St. John's (4-2) beat Hofstra, 70-49.

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Inside

Radical cricket changes

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Kidd takes Blackburn's reins

BLACKBURN (AP) — After eight years as Alex Ferguson's assistant at Manchester United, Brian Kidd yesterday became the manager of Blackburn Rovers, signing a contract that runs until June 2002.

Kidd succeeds Roy Hodgson, who was fired last month after Blackburn's 2-0 defeat to Southampton.

United had agreed reluctantly to let Kidd talk with last-place Rovers about filling their managerial vacancy.

Only last week chief executive Martin Edwards claimed the only way Kidd would leave United would be "over my dead body."

Rovers' dismal season continued Wednesday night with a 1-0 loss to Leicester in the quarterfinals of the League Cup.

Blackburn, which won the Premier League title in 1995, is now bottom of the table with only two victories in 15 games.

Appleby takes 1st-round lead

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

ADELAIDE (AP) — Australian Stuart Appleby, tuning up for next week's Presidents Cup and still trying to overcome his wife's death, shot a 3-under-par 69 yesterday to take the first-round lead at the Australian Open.

On a day when the tough par-72 Royal Adelaide Golf Club course lived up to its reputation, only 13 players in the 126-man field broke par. day's scores are any indication.

One stroke back of Appleby after first-round 70s are Greg Norman, Canadian Rick Gibson, Australians Peter Senior and Kenny Druce and New Zealander Stephen Scallion. Appleby and Norman will both play for the International team against the United States at next week's Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne.

Appleby, playing for the first time in Australia since the death of his wife, Renay, in a London traffic accident in July, had back-to-back birdies to start the back nine, took consecutive bogeys on 14 and 15 then finished with a pair of birdies.

Appleby said it's difficult concentrating without his wife nearby on the golf course. Renay, a former promising golfer, was a constant companion on the tour and caddied for Appleby when he played the Nike circuit in the US.

"Not having her all the time is hard," said Appleby.



TUNNEL VISION — Fred Couples lines up his putt in the opening round of the Australian Open. Couples finished the day with a 4-over 76. (Reuters)

Sign-stealing scam rocks Japanese baseball

TOKYO (AP) — Former Japanese star pitcher Sadaharu Oh could face a lifetime ban from baseball if an investigation finds that the team that he manages was orchestrating a reported sign-stealing scam.

Oh, who holds Japan's career record of 868 home runs, has not been directly implicated in the embarrassing allegations against his Daiei Hawks that have riveted this baseball-crazy country.

And the three players accused in the scam have denied wrongdoing. "I can't believe it," Oh said. "I'd like to believe my players."

According to the charges, a team employee sitting in front of a TV monitor watched footage from one of four cameras around Fukuoka Dome, Daiei's home stadium, that clearly showed the catcher of the other team.

The employee deciphered the catcher's signs and used a walkie-talkie to tell what pitch was coming to a youngster in the stands, who had been specially hired for

the job, Japanese media reports said. The youngster then relayed that information to the batter, using his megaphone.

A megaphone held before his face meant the pitcher was about to throw a fastball. A megaphone held out toward the right was a curve or a slider, and to the left a forkball, the reports say.

Daiei — which tied for third this season in the six-club Pacific League — is carrying out an investigation and has promised to present its findings to the league office within a week.

Speculation grew that Oh may have to resign to take responsibility for the cheating, which allegedly began last year and continued into the latest season ending in October.

In Japan, people in leadership positions often have to step down when a scandal happens, even if they are not directly involved.

Blatant spying is against Japanese professional baseball rules.

Juve: Arrivederci, Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — Slogans denouncing a Kurdish guerrilla group mixed with upbeat soccer chants and obscenities at Ali Sami Yen Stadium Wednesday during the politically charged Champions League match between Galatasaray and Juventus of Turin, which ended in a 1-1 tie and with no violence.

Around 22,000 police officers were deployed for the game amid fears that angry Turkish fans might turn violent against the Italians.

The Juventus team flew back immediately after the game to avoid possible trouble. Military troops in camouflage outfits stood guard around the stadium, and police used their shields to prevent possible flying objects from reaching the field. After the game, as a precaution, police in Ankara, the Turkish capital, blocked off a main street leading to the Italian embassy with water canons.

A group of about a hundred people gathered in front of the canons to shout slogans denouncing the rebel group. Hundreds of cars formed a long convoy through the streets with passengers waving flags and chanting "down with the PKK" referring to the guerrilla group.

In Istanbul, the crowd shouted obscenities at the tense-looking Juventus players who began their warm-up on the ground less than an hour before kick-off.

A band in the spectator stands played Mozart's funeral Requiem. Turkey and Italy are locked in a bitter dispute over the fate of Abdullah Ocalan, a Kurdish rebel leader arrested in Rome who has asked for political asylum, and there were fears the political tensions might spill onto the soccer field.

Authorities also said they worried about a provocation by the rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, aimed at staining Turkey's image.

No Italian fans attended the match because of security concerns. At the stadium entrance, police searched spectators for weapons or items like loose change that could be hurled onto the field. Even umbrellas and mobile phones were not allowed.

Johnson files for reinstatement

TORONTO (AP) — Ben Johnson has filed an application for reinstatement with Canada's track and field federation, the *Toronto Star* reported yesterday.

Athletics Canada, the governing body, will discuss Johnson's request at their general annual meeting in Ottawa this weekend.

Johnson was banned for life after twice testing positive for drugs — including at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Johnson tried to win reinstatement through the Ontario courts by saying his lifetime ban is a restraint of trade, but lost that case and a subsequent appeal in September.

"I now feel that dialogue can take place now that the court case is behind us," Athletics Canada president John Thresher told the *Star*.

If Athletics Canada agrees to put forward Johnson's application, it would go before the Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport.

ment through the Ontario courts by saying his lifetime ban is a restraint of trade, but lost that case and a subsequent appeal in September.

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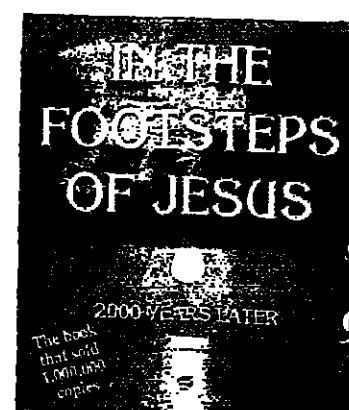
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